

# The Baptist Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

Thursday, June 13, 1991

Published Since 1877

## Bush finds allies for his social agenda

By Greg Warner

ATLANTA (ABP) — During his first visit to the Southern Baptist Convention since being elected president, George Bush found the nation's largest Protestant denomination a ready ally for his social agenda.

Bush and the Baptists found common ground on such key social issues as abortion, school prayer, the traditional family, and federal funding for educational alternatives — including Christian schools.

In a 17-minute speech that closed the three-day annual convention in Atlanta June 6, Bush urged Southern Baptists to "hold fast" to their historic commitments to freedom, faith, and the family.

"You've held to faith where others may have lost it, gained in numbers when others haven't, and made a difference where others couldn't," said Bush, an Episcopalian.

Convention messengers were well primed for the president's visit, having previously adopted several resolutions supportive of Bush's positions. The three-day meeting also included two patriotic concerts and a salute to the armed services, with special recognition given to those who served in the Persian Gulf war.

A resolution commended the wartime leadership of Bush and others and thanked God for "His blessing on our nation in Operation Desert Storm."

Earlier in the week, 15,000 Southern

Baptists attending the annual pre-convention Pastors' Conference gave a hero's welcome to retired Marine Lt. Col. Oliver North, who urged Southern Baptists to seek social reform through the political process.

The week-long emphasis on patriotism and right-wing political issues prompted some critics to accuse SBC leaders of turning the denomination into a tool of Bush and the Republican Party.

But, as if to show their independence of the popular president, convention messengers adopted two resolutions critical of Bush for allowing federal funds to support "immorality."

The specific targets were the National Endowment for the Arts, which reportedly finances "obscene, offensive, morally repugnant and sacrilegious art," and the Centers for Disease Control, which reportedly is providing \$25,000 for a national conference for lesbians and gays.

The resolutions ask Bush to fire NEA chairman John Frohnmayer and to prohibit the CDC and other government agencies from supporting groups "which encourage sexual immorality in any form."

Despite those concerns, the Baptist messengers welcomed the president with open arms. In introducing Bush to the audience, SBC president Morris Chapman of Wichita Falls, Texas, praised the president for "standing



George Bush

up" for family values, "the unborn," school prayer, and "parental choice in education and child care."

Listeners applauded as Bush described the family and faith as "the two fundamental pillars supporting our society."

Early into his speech, Bush was interrupted by a handful of chanting gay-rights protesters, who were quickly ejected from the World Congress Center.

More often, however, he was interrupted by applause from the estimated 23,000 people present. The

most enthusiastic response came when the president registered his opposition to federal funding of abortions, a practice he said has been in force since 1981.

— Abortion. Bush acknowledged "honest people of goodwill" differ on the issue of abortion but said the government should fund abortions "only in the most narrow of circumstances," namely to save the life of the mother. Southern Baptists, however, didn't limit their criticism to federally funded abortions. Their anti-abortion resolution, passed a day earlier, also spoke against scientific research on aborted fetal tissue and against development and use of new abortion technologies, such as the RU-486 "abortion pill."

— School prayer. Bush renewed his call for a constitutional amendment putting "voluntary prayer back into our nation's schools," a position endorsed by the SBC in recent years.

Bush told of a fifth-grade student — Monette Rethford of Norman, Okla. — who Bush said was prevented from reading the Bible and praying with her friends during recess because school officials labeled the gathering "an unlawful assembly."

School officials "forgot the First Amendment was written to protect people against religious intrusions by the state, not to protect the state from voluntary religious activities by the people," Bush said to thunderous

applause.

Southern Baptists, who have addressed the school-prayer issue in past resolutions, chose this year to focus their concern for religious liberty on a Supreme Court ruling they say has the effect of relegating the First Amendment's freedom of religion "to an inferior status."

The court's ruling in Employment Division, Department of Human Resources of Oregon v. Smith permits states to restrict religious practices without first proving the state has a "compelling interest."

The SBC resolution asks for legislation to restore the endangered freedoms but which does not protect abortion as a religious liberty.

— Education. Bush touted his America 2000 plan for education reform, which he said "puts power in parents' hands" by letting them choose which schools their children attend.

In his speech, Bush told the Baptists he "found guidance and comfort in prayer" during the Persian Gulf war.

He told of praying with his wife, Barbara, as he prepared to launch the air war against Iraq. The normally reserved Bush said he cried. "I no longer worried how it looked to others," he said, as tears again formed in his eyes and he paused.

"And I think that, like a lot of others who had positions or responsibility in sending someone else's kid to war, we realize that in prayer what mattered is how it might have seemed to God," he said.

Bush was obviously glad to address the convention, saying it had been "too long" since he had spoken to Southern Baptists. He was invited to speak to the SBC last year, but the invitation was either refused by Bush or withdrawn by the Baptists in a dispute over the president's recognition of gay-rights groups.

The presence of Oliver North, who was convicted of three charges in the Iran-Contra scandal, drew a small contingent of protesters and a critical editorial in the Atlanta Journal-Constitution.

Despite the cozy relationship between Baptists and the political right, Baptist sociologist Nancy Ammerman said she sees no "conspiracy" by Baptist leaders to turn the SBC into an arm of the Republican Party.

Instead, the linkage is quite natural, she told Associated Baptist Press. The shared political and denominational agenda grows out of "a general concern for the way society has changed in the last decades," said Ammerman, a professor at Emory University in Atlanta.

However, she added, Baptists aren't making any distinctions between the role of government and the role of the church. "It is a classic example of blurring the lines between what government does and what the church does," she said.

Warner is editor, Associated Baptist Press.



CONVENTION MESSENGERS — More than 22,000 registered messengers gathered in the Georgia World Congress Center June 4 as the Southern Baptist Convention conducted its opening day of business during the 1991 annual meeting. (SBC photo by Van Payne)



## EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

Guy Henderson

## Southern Baptists in Atlanta

This may be remembered as the patriotic convention. We should have waited until July to have it. A huge (30 x 60) American flag served as the backdrop before more than 23,000 messengers. Oliver North was introduced as an American hero and a great Christian. He received a standing ovation, declaring, "I've seen the power of prayer."

Chuck Colson of Watergate fame brought a touch of Washington, having passed among the rich and the famous of that city. Colson has ministered in 500 prisons in 31 countries around the world.

Then President Bush flew in on Air Force One to make what many consider to be his best speech. His presence received wide coverage by the media.

All things considered, it was a good convention. The Wednesday night service of confession and cleansing was well-conducted in the realization of transparency before God. It was a flood of adoration and praise as banners with the names of God were carried down the aisle. "Jesus, Jesus,

there's just something about that name," was the solo and the choir sang "Crown Him With Many Crowns" and "I'll Cherish the Old Rugged Cross." There was the blowing of the ram's horn for the people of God to gather for the reading of his Word. Bill Johnson said it best, "Not my brother, not my sister, but it's me O Lord."

There was the sound of nails being driven into the cross, as Ron Owens sang, "We Cry for Mercy, Lord." Tony Ponceti of Miami told of how he wanted to see President Manuel Noriega of Panama dead, but instead Noriega accepted Christ and "When I finally saw him, it was good to disciple him." Nickolas Georgighitae of Rumania told of a thousand believers who fell on their faces in prayer. "Now we have 2,000 members in the largest Baptist church in Europe."

There were some people and some statements made that waved a red flag. Tim LaHaye said some good things, but his stand against the public schools is bitter to bear. The courting

of Jerry Falwell continues by the upper echelon of the Convention. He is not Southern Baptist, and does not support the Cooperative Program or our mission effort. He just "happened" to be at the Pastor's Conference and was given a few minutes to present his prepared speech, though he was not listed on the program.

Little mention was made publicly of the departed moderates. Morris Chapman, SBC president, indicated they would be welcome to return on the provisions set forth by the present Convention. He declared the 12-year debate over the Scriptures "has been settled." The Baptist Joint Committee's budget was reduced from \$400,000 to \$50,000 in the New Orleans convention, and the \$50,000 was eliminated at the Atlanta Convention. Meanwhile, the Christian Life Commission, the denomination's religious liberty and moral concerns agency, received a 6.3 percent increase.

Morris Chapman, with the help of a paid parliamentarian, presided well and several times emphasized kindness and courtesy toward one another.

## FAITH OF OUR FATHERS

By Charlsie Austin Parks

*cepted his illness in humility, and patience. I have to believe that you are perfecting him for the joys of your kingdom.*

*Thank you, dear God, for allowing him to be my earthly father. For his faithfulness, his precepts, character, ideals, his love, and joy for life. Thank you for his uncompromising loyalty to you and your word.*

*I've adored him for 58 years. There was a time when I could not conceive of life without him. However, life is no joy or pleasure for him anymore. He is homesick. He is more with you than with us. I release him to you.*

Daddy had been in the hospital for a week. The doctors had told us he would not leave alive. He had been in bad health for four or five years. Now he was 83. During this week I had stayed with him day and night. He had not opened his eyes or spoken to us. Mother was ill in an adjoining room. My heart was heavy.

This Sunday I sat beside Daddy and watched church on television. He seemed not to be aware of anything. This man who had ministered for 55 years, who loved God's house and God's word above all things, didn't even know that it was Sunday. I looked long at the frail features of this man who was my hero. How I loved him.

Daddy had been strong and vibrant all through the years. It had been impossible ever to think of him as being frail or weak. God had blessed him with health. However, when his body began to fail, Daddy accepted it bravely.

He had beautiful deep blue eyes.

Those eyes always lit up when I walked into a room where he was. I would miss that when he was gone.

The morning of May 2, I got up from the cot where I had slept. Daddy was sitting up in bed. His lovely eyes were open for the first time in a week. He looked so alert! I exclaimed, "Well, look at you, aren't you something!" Daddy knew me. He was happy that I was there. He smiled at me. Then in a moment it was over. His eyes took on a blank expression. Something inside me said, "Today is the last day." At 9 that night Daddy quietly left us.

Many times he had told us, "When I am gone, do not grieve for me, for the day I die will be the most glorious day of my life."

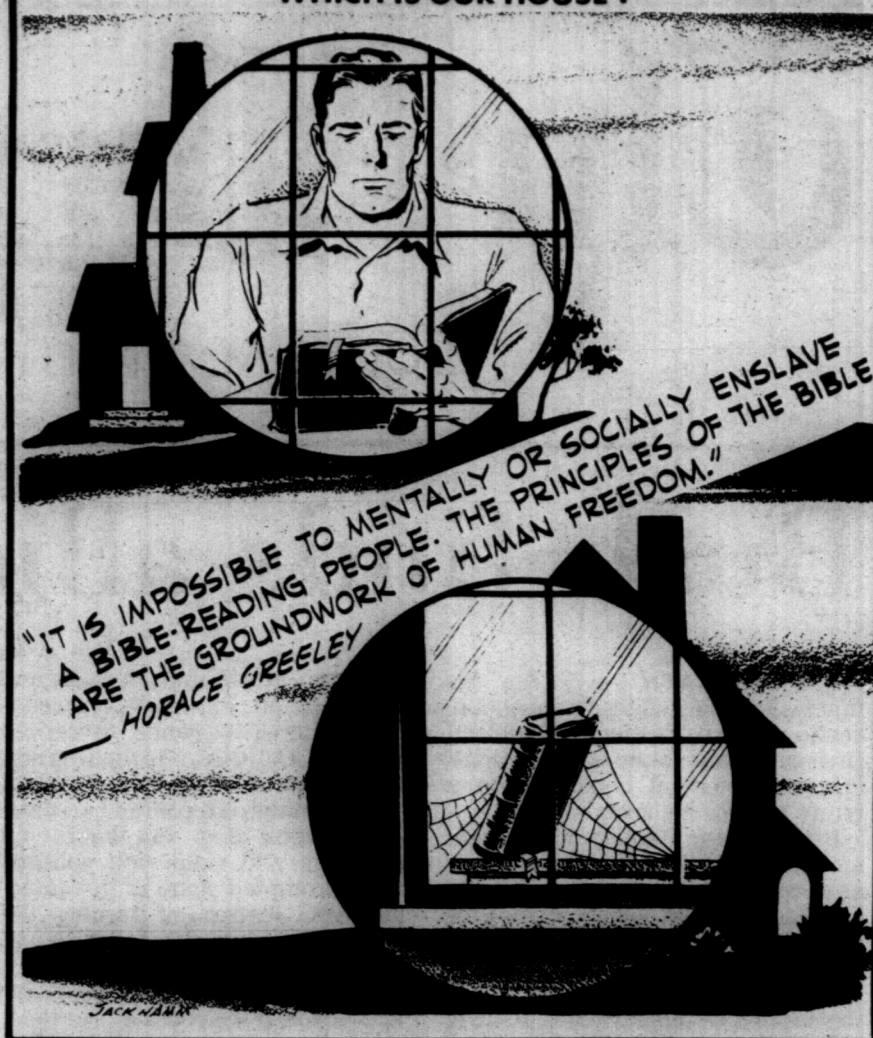
The spirit was gone! I gazed at the shell of clay in disbelief at how totally empty the human house is when the spirit leaves. In spite of my grief at our loss, I praised God. Heaven had a lusty new voice in its choir. There was a new saint added to those who are praising and adoring their Lord.

His funeral was a celebration as he wished it to be. Mother, my brother, and I rejoiced with Daddy at his home-going. Mother joined him April 21, 1989. "Moreover, it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful" (1 Cor. 4:2). That could truly be said of Daddy and Mother.

I praise God for Daddy's faith, and examples of the Christian life. We as Baptists have a rich heritage left to us by steadfast souls down through the generations past. Much of that heritage was bought at great price. We must not let it grow stale with us. We have a responsibility to pass along this same priceless heritage to future generations. God is all, and so much more than his word reveals to us!

Mrs. Parks is a homemaker and freelance writer, New Albany.

## WHICH IS OUR HOUSE?



## Update:

## Mountains of Mourning

By Alvis Ken Cooper

May 15, 1991 — There are some things that money cannot buy. There are some things that only pass by once. If you miss them the first time around, then the loss is forever.

I've been thinking about what Jesus said to his disciples when they said to him, "... we have forsaken all and followed thee. What shall we have therefore?" (Matt. 19:27). That is an interesting question and Christ gave an interesting answer.

My thoughts are these — some of the things that one may need to give up in order to follow Christ are the most precious gifts of God in the first place. Any thinking Christian knows that, short of salvation itself, a person's family is highly valued as a gift from God. It is hard to leave a home one has lived in for a long time; it is hard to leave property that has been in one's family. The more difficult, though, is leaving family. Flesh and blood, houses and land, are all gifts from God. Jesus told his disciples that they would "... sit upon twelve thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel" (Matt. 19:28) for following him.

I don't know how he will do it, but Jesus said, "Everyone that hath forsaken houses, or brethren, or sisters, or fathers, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my name's sake, shall receive an hundredfold, and shall inherit everlasting life" (Matt. 19:29). He said it, I believe it, he will do it!

"But, as it is written, eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him" (1 Cor. 1:9).

Yes, indeed, I don't know how, but

I know it's going to be a hundred times sweeter than the sweetest refrain.

I know that you can tell we miss our mothers, our children, and especially our grandson, but there is another part of this story. In my last letter I told you about going to Zakh, Iraq. There, and along the mountain ridges of Iran, Iraq, and Turkey, a heart-breaking tragedy is unfolding. There, mothers as sweet and beautiful as my own and Martha's are being brought down from the mountain camps weak and at the very point of death. There, sons and daughters return alone. Their moms and dads have died. Maybe a relative is still alive who will raise the younger ones that are too small to take care of themselves: little girls, clinging to their fathers, whose mothers have died; little grandsons and granddaughters wrapped in white cloth, never to live, never to show their beautiful little smiles, never again will their little beautiful eyes twinkle in the bright sunlight.

There in Zakh, Iraq, their need cries out for doctors and nurses and others who could come and relieve just a little of their suffering and pain. We have our medical teams in Zakh, and more are coming in. Our C-130 is stranded in Cyprus again, this time with the feeding kitchens aboard.

There is grief and pain over here and people need a loving touch and a sweet word of hope. Could you come and help? Would you? When you do, you will know the answer to all the questions I asked in this letter. Jesus will bless you — a hundredfold.

Ken and Martha Cooper served in Mississippi prior to being appointed as missionaries to Turkey.

## The Baptist Record

VOLUME 115

(ISSN-0005-5778)

NUMBER 19

Published weekly except weeks of July 4 and Christmas by the Mississippi Baptist Convention, 515 Mississippi Street, Jackson, MS 39201. Subscription \$7.35 a year payable in advance. Second class postage paid at Jackson, Mississippi. The Baptist Record is a member of Southern Baptist Press Association.

Editor ..... Guy Henderson  
Associate Editor ..... Anne McWilliams  
Advertising Manager ..... Evelyn Keyes  
Editorial Associate ..... Florence Larrimore  
Circulation Manager ..... Renee Walley  
Bookkeeper ..... Betty Anne Bailey  
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Send news, communications, and address changes to The Editor, Baptist Record P. O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205



# Chapman challenges Baptists to become people of faith

Southern Baptists were challenged June 4 to become people of faith, the Bible, missions, evangelism, and prayer.

In an address on "Faith Is the Victory," Morris Chapman, president of the 15-million member Southern Baptist Convention, asked the messengers to the 134th annual meeting of the denomination how they stacked up in those five major areas.

The address climaxed the first session of the three-day meeting of the evangelical denomination at the Georgia World Congress Center.

"Down through the years, Southern Baptists have been known as people of the book (Bible)," said Chapman, pastor of First Church, Wichita Falls, Texas.

"May God give Southern Baptists the fearless faith to just say, No, when anyone tries to compromise our convictions about the Word of God."

Chapman said evangelical Christians all over the nation are ap-

plauding Southern Baptists for their stand on the Bible as the inspired, infallible, inerrant Word of God.

"Throughout the last decade some within our convention have insisted that there is no theological difference among Southern Baptists," Chapman said.

However, a leader of a newly organized Baptist fellowship was quoted two weeks ago in a state Baptist newspaper as admitting that theological differences have existed between moderates and conservatives for the last 12 years, Chapman reported.

The SBC president then pointed to a Baptist Fellowship document that he quoted as saying that "the Bible neither claims nor reveals inerrancy as a Christian teaching" and that "Bible claims must be based on the Bible, not on human interpretations of the Bible."

Chapman added: "In kindness, but in all candor, I cannot conceive of



**PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS** — SBC President Morris Chapman delivers the president's address during the annual meeting. Chapman, who told messengers that the 12-year debate among Southern Baptists over the nature of Scripture "has been settled" for individuals who believe in the Bible's infallibility, was elected without opposition to a second one-year term. (SBC photo by Mark Sandlin)

anyone claiming the Bible has errors and then in the very next sentence cry over human interpretations of the Bible.

"When you refuse to believe the Bible to be God's perfect Word, you have stripped away God's authority. All you have left is human interpretation."

Chapman drew upon the writings of James M. Frost, first corresponding secretary of the Baptist Sunday School Board, Nashville, to support the position that an inerrant Bible is part of the Southern Baptist heritage.

"This conviction is foundational in Southern Baptist life," Chapman said, "and can only remain so if we teach it in the classrooms of educational institutions, preach it in the pulpits of our churches, and print it in the published pages of our literature."

"Agreement will not always be reached on matters of biblical interpretation," he continued, "but agreement must be reached on biblical authority."

"I call upon every denominational employee, every pastor, and every person in the pew to join in this endeavor of everlasting consequences."

Turning to missions and evangelism, Chapman said he was certain Southern Baptists would not turn their backs upon their home and foreign missionaries.

Chapman said he wanted Southern Baptists to jump start 1,000 new churches next Easter Sunday and to double their gifts to the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for home missions.

Concerning prayer, Chapman said he believes God is calling Southern Baptists to pray for the fire to fall.

"We need a fresh touch from God. We need God to set our hearts ablaze with his glory. In this denomination and across this nation we need God to ignite the flames of revival."

In other action, messengers received (See **CHAPMAN** on page 6)

## 3,500 WMU members meet in Atlanta, Ga.

By Anne W. McWilliams



Miller

Wennerberg

ATLANTA — Over 3,500 members of Woman's Missionary Union, auxiliary to the Southern Baptist Convention, elected a new president, approved a record \$13,413,380 budget, and heard challenges of missions leaders and testimonies of career missionaries, in the ballroom of the Georgia World Congress Center June 2 and 3.

Carolyn Downes Miller, 53, of Huntsville, Ala., succeeds Marjorie McCullough as president of the organization. She formerly served as WMU president in Alabama. Born at Boaz, Ala., she is a graduate of Auburn University. Her husband, Jerry Miller, is deputy director of the

Army Missile and Space Intelligence Center at Huntsville, where the two are members at First Baptist Church. The Millers have three children and one grandchild.

Miller's sister and brother-in-law, Gwen and Don Reece, have been Southern Baptist missionaries in Nigeria for 32 years.

Miller told reporters, "The WMU never has taken sides in the long SBC theological battle, and continues to support the Cooperative Program and the denominational missions agencies. But it will not and should not prevent Southern Baptists from giving to missions as they choose."

She outlined her dream of involving far more young people and younger women — particularly working women — in missions education through local churches. "WMU needs to change its image," she said, "an image that we just sit around and talk and drink — drink coffee or lemonade," she added to the sound of laughter.

Martha Wennerberg, 58, of DeFuniak Springs, Fla. was elected national recording secretary, WMU, SBC, to succeed Patti Dent of Clinton, Miss. Wennerberg, South Carolina native, is a former WMU president in (See **WMU** on page 5)

## Missionaries resign to become "tentmakers"

Dan and Lydia Jones, medical missionaries to Korea, have resigned from the Foreign Mission Board, but will continue to serve in Korea. He will be employed by the Baptist Hospital in Pusan, pending Ministry of Health and Korean Immigration approval.

Jones stated the apostle Paul, working as a tentmaker, and David Livingstone had been his inspiration in this decision. The SBC controversy also entered in his decision. He stated "the unwarranted attack on seminary professors and administrators, the

heads of our mission-sending agencies, and the leaders of Baptist Press is an attack on and threat to every employee of the SBC."

"My call from God has not changed," declared Jones, "and I will willingly find another avenue for expression of that call." He stated he would leave the Foreign Mission Board with deep appreciation for fellow missionaries and their commitments. The Joneses request prayer in this new direction and for a greater understanding among all Christian brothers.

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## SBC messengers hear Bush adopt budget, deny BJCPA

By Roy Jennings

ATLANTA (BP) — Messengers to the 134th Southern Baptist Convention adopted an annual budget of \$140,710,282, re-elected a conservative president, took positions on a dozen social and constitutional issues, and heard a plea from President George Bush for voluntary prayer in school, vouchers for child care, and parental freedom to choose schools for their children.

On the topic of abortion, President Bush said he opposed federal funding of abortions, except where the life of the mother is endangered.

In a 20-minute address punctuated by frequent applause, President Bush called on Congress to pass a constitutional amendment permitting voluntary prayer in the nation's schools.

"Let's put people first and allow them the freedom to follow their faith," he said. "Putting people first also means making sure government allows people to make their own decisions, and that means giving parents and families the right to choose the kind of child care they want for their kids."

"Just today we are publishing regulations that will provide the first vouchers for child care."

Bush said he wanted to extend the concept choice to include schools.

"Every family should have the freedom to choose a school for a child," he said. "Our efforts for choice in schools seek to put power in parents' hands. We trust them to make the right decisions for their kids. I'm confident that choice will make bad schools better."

The convention, sixth largest in

denominational history with 23,564 messengers, also offered inspiration and information in presentations by missionaries, prominent Baptist preachers, and 20 agency executives.

Conservative forces demonstrated their control of the convention, electing their candidates to most major offices and defunding completely the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, one of their Washington lobbies that fell into disfavor for a variety of reasons, including opposition to school prayer and criticism of former President Ronald Reagan.

By a vote of 6,872 to 6,101, the messengers denied a \$50,000 allocation next year to the Baptist Joint Committee, which represents Southern Baptists and eight other Baptist bodies.

"Let's put people first... allow them to follow their faith." — Bush

Only a year ago the messengers switched the religious liberty promotion function from the Baptist Joint Committee to their Christian Life Commission and cut BJC funding by 87 percent.

The messengers re-elected Morris Chapman, pastor of First Church of Wichita Falls, Texas, to a second one-year term as president and named Nelson Price, pastor of Roswell Street Church in Marietta, Ga., first vice

president. Neither had opposition.

Conservatives' candidate David W. Atchison of Nashville, Tenn., was elected without opposition to a second one-year term as recording secretary.

Conservative efforts to replace Lee Porter of Nashville, a 14-year veteran, as registration secretary failed when James W. Richards, a Baton Rouge, La., pastor came up 17 votes short.

Porter, a no-nonsense officer who instituted registration reform while making messengers registration easier and less time consuming, won the office for the 15th year by a vote of 4,523 to 4,506.

The SBC Executive Committee and Resolutions Committee had their own way with the messengers for the most part, pushing through recommendations virtually without change.

Messengers did criticize the Executive Committee for asking them to increase its budget by almost 10 percent while requesting only an average of 2.46 percent increase for agencies. However, the critics did not have the votes to amend the proposal.

In the next series of actions, the messengers promptly OKed 17 other Executive Committee recommendations, including meeting in June 9-11, 1998, in Salt Lake City, Utah, and June 13-15, 2000 in Orlando, Fla.

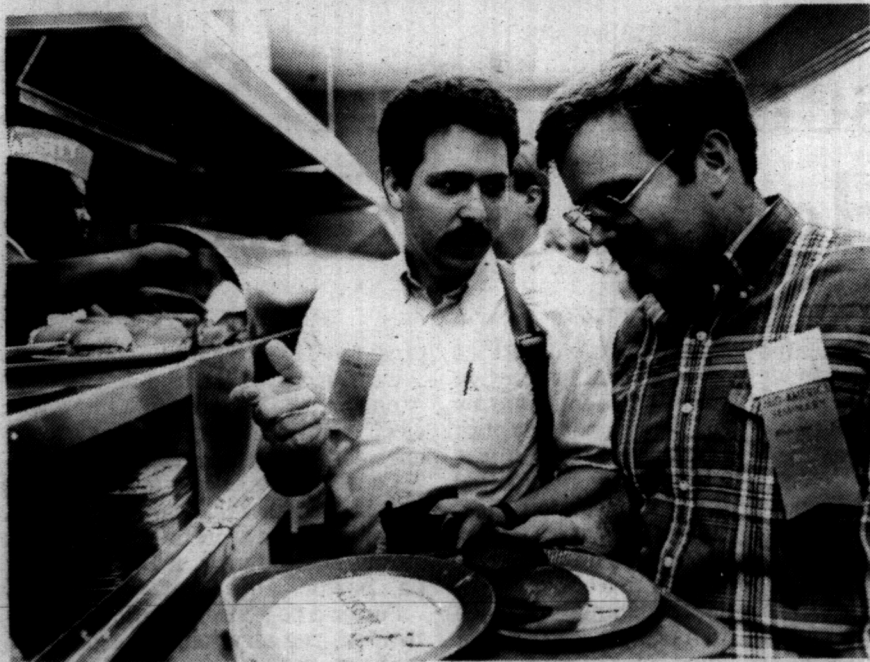
Although Southern Baptists have spoken on the abortion issue in previous years, this year's resolution on the sanctity of human life specifically opposes the testing, approval, distribution, and marketing of new drugs and technologies that will make the practice of abortion more

(See **SBC** on page 4)





**James M. Dunn**, executive director of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, casts his vote against deleting the SBC's \$50,000 allotment to that Washington-based agency. Joining him in the vote is **Elizabeth Cooper**, center, widow of former SBC President Owen Cooper. (SBC photo by Van Payne)



**LUNCH AT THE VARSITY** — Tim Miller, left, associate pastor of Hickory Grove Church in Coldwater, and Gary Stafford, pastor of that congregation, make a lunch stop at the Varsity, an Atlanta eating landmark. The two Mississippians were in town for the Southern Baptist Convention. (SBC photo by Mark Sandlin)

## Executive Committee chooses new chairman

David Hankins, pastor, Trinity Church, Lake Charles, La., was elected chairman of the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee during its organizational meeting June 5.

Hankins was unopposed for the office along with Fred Wolfe, pastor, Cottage Hill Church, Mobile, Ala., who was elected as vice chairman.

Eldridge Miller, pastor, First Church, Sallisaw, Okla., was elected recording secretary. He defeated two other candidates — Stan Coffey, pastor, San Jacinto Church of Amarillo, Texas, and Newton Brill, a layman from West Plains, Mo.

Julian Motley was elected June 3 to

chair the search committee seeking as successor to Executive Committee president and treasurer Harold Bennett.

Bennett announced June 3 he will retire Oct. 1, 1992.

Motley asked for input from Executive Committee members about candidates and qualifications.

Other members of the search committee are Coffey; Hankins; Wolfe; Doyle Collins, Roseburg, Ore.; Ronnie Floyd, Springdale, Ark.; Gwyna Parker, Taylor, Texas; Guy Sanders, Lake Wales, Fla.; Simon Tsoi, Phoenix, Ariz.; and Joe Warwick, Knoxville, Tenn.

# Chapman is re-elected

Morris H. Chapman, 50-year-old pastor of First Church, Wichita Falls, Tex., was elected without opposition Tuesday to a second one-year term as president of the 15-million-member Southern Baptist Convention.

Chapman was nominated by Fred Wolfe, pastor, Cottage Hill Church, Mobile, Ala., who characterized Chapman's first term as president as one of compassion, commitment, and consecration.

Wolfe said Chapman "has led us on a high road of compassion. He has held fast to his conviction while at the same time being loving and kind in his relationships."

Wolfe said Chapman's "loving spirit was demonstrated in the way he presided this morning over our first session."

Chapman also has demonstrated

commitment Wolfe said, because he "has held before us a lost world and called us to review and support the Cooperative Program and to demonstrate that support by raising our level of giving through the Cooperative Program."

Wolfe said Chapman also "led upon the high road of consecration. He has called us to prayer for spiritual awakening to reach this world with the gospel of Jesus Christ."

Wolfe said Chapman has magnified the Cooperative Program as God's way to do missions as Southern Baptists.

Wolfe said Chapman had challenged the convention to join in a high and holy moment for Southern Baptists on Wednesday night by planning a time for us to seek God together for a

mighty moving of his Holy Spirit in our denomination.

"He has reminded us of how desperately we need for the spirit of God to move mightily" in the convention's sermons, business, and other actions.

Wolfe said Chapman would lead Southern Baptists again as a "Christian statesman and gentleman."

Chapman, who has been pastor of the Wichita Falls church since 1979, is a native of Kosciusko. He is a graduate of Mississippi College, and holds master of divinity and doctor of ministry degrees from Southwestern Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas.

He was pastor of First Church, Albuquerque, N.M., for five years.

He is married to the former Jodi Francis of Memphis, Tenn. They have two children.

## SBC messengers hear Bush

(Continued from page 3)

convenient and more wide spread.

The resolution on government support of obscene and offensive art asks President Bush to fire John Frohnmayer, chairman of the National Endowment for the Arts, and replace him with someone who will stop funding obscene, morally repugnant, and sacrilegious art.

The resolution on parental choice reaffirms the right of parents to educate their children according to their religious convictions, encourages choice in education initiatives that include proper tax incentives for families with the understanding these initiatives are fully in keeping with freedom of religion guarantees and prohibitions against any governmental establishment of religion.

The resolution on the use of government funds to encourage immoral sexual behavior criticized a Centers of Disease Control grant of \$25,000 to a gay and lesbian health conference and calls upon President Bush to take decisive action to ensure that such grants are prohibited in the future.

The messengers offered 51 motions on a wide range of topics. Most were referred to agencies and committees. The messengers discussed two of them.

Addresses by Keith Parks, president of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, Tom Elliff, pastor of First Southern Baptist Church of Del City, Okla., and Joel Gregory, pastor of First Baptist Church of Dallas, provided much of the inspiration.

SBC President Chapman took several jabs at Southern Baptist moderates in his address on the topic of "Faith Is The Victory." While imploring Southern Baptists to be people of faith, the Bible, missions and evangelism, and prayer, Chapman indicated moderates were coming up short as people of the Book.

Chapman criticized a Baptist fellowship document which, he said, states the Bible neither claims nor reveals inerrancy as a Christian teaching and that Bible claims must be based on the Bible, not on human interpretations of the Bible.

"When you refuse to believe the Bible to be God's perfect Word, you have stripped away God's authority," he said. "All you have left is interpretation," Chapman said.

Concerning an inerrant Bible as part of the Southern Baptist heritage, Chapman called the conviction foundational and asked Southern Baptists to teach it in classrooms of educational institutions, preach it in the pulpits, and print it in denominational literature.

"Agreement will not always be reached on matters of biblical interpretation," he said, "but agreement must be reached on biblical authority."

While 20 agencies detailed their accomplishments for the messengers in annual reports, the Southern Baptist Education Commission also advised them to go slow on a proposal to set up a Southern Baptist accreditation vehicle.

The task force recommended that no accreditation body be formed that would interfere with the relationship between Southern Baptist schools and regional accrediting bodies.

Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission leaders used the convention as an opportunity to present their new president to the messengers.

James D. Williams, executive vice president of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board, will take the reins of the agency Sept. 15. Agency trustees elected him Wednesday.

In final business, the messengers chose Lewis Drummond, president of Southeastern Seminary, to preach the convention sermon in 1991 and designated James W. Jones, evangelism and Brotherhood director for the Baptist State Convention of Michigan, as the alternate preacher.

Jack Price of Garland, Texas, was re-elected as convention music director.

The messengers will meet in 1992 on June 9-11 in Indianapolis, Ind.

Jennings is copy editor for Baptist Press, SBC annual meeting.



**UNDERGROUND ATLANTA** — A Southern Baptist family takes advantage of free time during the SBC annual meeting and shops at stores located in Underground Atlanta. Pictured are Greg Johnston, right, pastor of Fair River Church, Brookhaven; his wife, Vickie; and their children, Britt and Janna. (SBC photo by Mark Sandlin)



## Soul winning efforts yield 324 converts

A total of 324 professions of faith were recorded in Atlanta as Southern Baptists participated in a variety of evangelistic ministries prior to the Southern Baptist Convention's annual meeting.

Saturday, June 1, before the annual meeting began on Tuesday, 662 volunteers went door-to-door in Atlanta neighborhoods. They shared the gospel 842 times and visited 6,720 homes. Their efforts resulted in 154 professions of faith.

Earlier in the week, 83 volunteers preached on Atlanta's downtown streets and recorded 139 professions of faith.

In addition, mobile disaster relief units from five states served four meals over the weekend. People witnessing to those receiving the meals reported 31 professions of faith.

The pre-convention witnessing efforts were coordinated by the Evangelism Department of the Home Mission Board. Expanding the project to include events other than the door-to-door survey was the vision of Morris Chapman, SBC president and pastor of First Church, Wichita Falls, Texas.

## SBC Quips & Quotes

"Very quiet convention; may as well go home."

"Lost and unchurched people could care less about inerrancy. They could care less about whether you're a Southern Baptist church. They'll go where their needs are being met." — Ron Lewis.

On the cheering and applause of the Atlanta Braves games: "Sounds like the convention."

"The crew from Mississippi (Emergency Feeding Station) were the best organized and did a great job in feeding and witnessing." — HMB employee

"If I could get permission to minister to Saddam Hussein, I would." — Rudy Hernandez

"Lot's wife was a pillar of salt by day and a ball of fire at night."

"We have to have a Church of Christ parliamentarian. No one listens to a fellow Baptist any more."

"Nice calm meeting. I've been blessed by it."

"The normal pattern (in existing churches) is we reach enough of the younger generation to prove we can do it. We aren't doing it well, but it keeps us from feeling guilty." — Lyle Schaller

"If Pentecost happened today, most state papers would explain it away." — Bailey Smith

One man was introduced as having attended 50 conventions, and another said, "We ought to do something for him." "Maybe buy him a cushion," said a third.

"Our dream of a Christian America has faded away. I am 82 years old, and I tell you, our mission field is the USA now." — W. A. Criswell

## Messengers re-elect Porter as SBC registration secretary

Lee Porter of Nashville, Tenn., was re-elected to a 15th term as registration secretary of the Southern Baptist Convention, defeating James W. Richards, pastor of Southminster Church, Baton Rouge, La., by 17 votes.

Porter received 4,523 votes and Richards, 4,506 votes in the most spirited election of the convention.

Tommy Knotts, associational director of missions in Belvedere, S.C., and a member of the Credentials Committee for 10 years, nominated Porter,

recalling his efforts to reduce the waiting time to register and to assure honesty and integrity in the process.

Richard Lee, pastor of Rehoboth Church, Atlanta, nominated Richards, pointing to his denominational service as chairman of the Committee on Nominations and trustee on the Christian Life Commission.

David W. Atchinson of Nashville was elected to his second one-year term as recording secretary without opposition.

## Pastors elect Graham president

Jack Graham, pastor, Prestonwood Church, Dallas, Texas, was elected president of the Southern Baptist Pastors' Conference June 3 at the Georgia World Congress Center.

Larry Wynn, pastor, Hebron Church, Dacula, Ga., was named vice president and Kenneth Barnett, a

Denver pastor, secretary-treasurer.

None of the officers had opposition. Graham, who concluded a sermon to the pastors 30 minutes before his election, was nominated by Ed Young, pastor, Second Church of Houston, Texas.



## SBREA elects Gambrell president

**SBREA OFFICERS** — Southern Baptist Religious Education Association officers elected during the organization's June 2-3 annual meeting, are: seated, from left; **William A. Gambrell**, president, minister of education/pastoral care of **First Church of Jackson**; Nelda P. Williams, western vice president, consultant in Sunday School work for the Baptist General Convention of Texas; Eddie Lee, assistant secretary, minister of education/administration at Grace Church in Evansville, Ind.; standing, from left, Joe Haynes, secretary-treasurer, growth consultant in the Sunday School Growth and Administration

Department of the Baptist Sunday School Board; Charles Ballard, eastern vice president, associate pastor of education at First Church of Maryville, Tenn.; Merle Basden, SBREA executive director, Fort Worth, Texas; Mavis Allen, vice president, senior coordinator of Sunday School program development for the Baptist Sunday School Board; and **G. Ted Taylor**, central vice president, minister of education at **First Church of Starkville**. Not pictured is William R. Comer, president-elect, professor of religious education at Southern Seminary, Louisville, Ky. (SBC photo by Mavis Allen)

## WMU

From page 3

Florida and a former YWA director in Alabama. She and her husband, Donald Wennerberg, parents of two daughters, have served as missions volunteers in Dominican Republic and Honduras. Wennerberg has degrees from Furman and Southwestern Seminary.

Both the Foreign Mission Board president, R. Keith Parks, and the Home Mission Board president, Larry Lewis, addressed the women in their annual meeting. The concluding session Monday centered on the work of the Home Mission Board. After a parade of 50 state flags, all employees of the HMB in Atlanta marched down the aisle and filled the front of the room. Five home missionaries then gave testimonies on the convention theme, "Called to Mission." The Company, Southwestern Seminary group, opened each session with a dramatic presentation on the theme.

Maurice Graham, missionary to Kuwait held hostage last fall in the U.S. Embassy, told participants he owes his life to prayers of Southern Baptists. He challenged his listeners to renew their call to give sacrificially to missions.

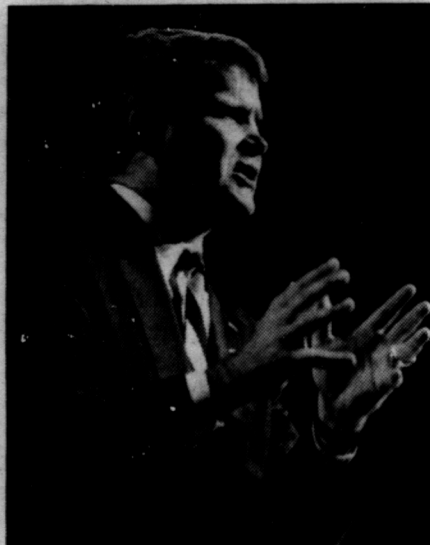
Music highlights of the WMU meeting were performances by the Atlanta Korean Children's Choir; the Atlanta Associational Hispanic Choir; Image from Palm Beach Atlantic College; the orchestra, adult choir, and youth ensemble of First Church, Jonesboro, Ga.; and Warren C. Fields, Music Department, Georgia Baptist Convention. Mary Alice Collier of Albuquerque, directed the congregational singing. Ann Kennedy of Smyrna, Ga., was organist and Linda Love of Birmingham was pianist. The Korean children, in high, sweet voices sang "Jesus Loves Me" in Korean and in English.

Before Marjorie McCullough gave her outgoing president's address on

Monday, she received an introduction by Joan Tyler of Collins, Mississippi's state WMU president. McCullough compared WMU's strength to the shipwrecked Gulliver who went to sleep and while he slept, "tiny midget people with tiny cords bound him to the ground." She said, "Having once dwelt in the land of peace where we trusted and were trusted, maybe we have not dared to change our methods or get ourselves more on the cutting edge of life . . . Are we realizing the imperativeness of the times in which we live? We could awaken soon to find ourselves prisoners of our own littleness, our little vision, little ideas, little hope."

Among foreign missionaries who described their calls to mission service were Myrtice Owens and Laura Frances Snow.

Owens, missionary nurse, Namibia,



Retired Marine Lt. Col. Oliver North tells participants at the annual Southern Baptist Pastors' Conference that Christians need to be involved in government, saying that it is a "tragedy that so many Christians have withdrawn from the political process." (SBC photo by Van Payne)

Africa, said she began a daily clinic at her back door. She would treat up to 40 patients a day in servant quarters behind her house, in brief recess periods while teaching her children at home. So many came to the clinic she had to limit ones treated to those attending her church. "That really boosted church attendance!" she said. This was also a means of witness. She said, "God blessed the nursing ministry and we saw many lives changed — medically and spiritually."

Owens thanked Woman's Missionary Union for its strengthening her life and ministry. A WMU leader in Florida led her to faith in Christ when Owens was 14. Two years later, she heard a missionary speak; then riding home through an orange grove on her bicycle, she stopped and surrendered to missions. The Florida WMU helped to fund her seminary education.

Snow, missionary to Chile retiring after 34 years, said that in spite of the annoyances, being a missionary had its rewards. (In Chile, she was executive secretary of WMU.) "The house is burglarized, my pocket is picked, the windshield wipers are stolen, and a window smashed . . . The cable comes announcing that Mother has gone to be with the Lord, and you are half a world away . . . But in spite of all this, she knew her work was worthwhile when she saw generations of boys and girls she had trained become Sunday School teachers, counselors, deacons, and presidents of national religious organizations.

Clayton Gilbert, Alexander City, Ala., father of journeyman Mary Anna Gilbert who was killed in a plane crash in China Oct. 2, 1990, delivered the closing message Monday afternoon. With tears in his eyes, he announced that he and his wife have answered the call to serve in China, to teach conversational English, in the summer of 1992.





# Faces and places

by Anne Washburn McWilliams



## Atlanta '91

Of 23,564 Southern Baptists in Atlanta for their convention last week, I don't know how many were women and how many were men. But at least every other woman owned a polka dot outfit. For most originality in the polka dot parade, I voted for the couple in a restaurant in the Omni Hotel. She was wearing a navy and white polka dot hat and belt and carrying a polka dot purse. He was wearing a matching polka dot tie.

Georgia can be hot, but last week's temperatures were much more bearable than the torrid ones of the 1990 convention in New Orleans.

Last time I went to a convention in Atlanta, I said I'd just as soon not go back if we had to meet down in that dungeon of an auditorium at the World Congress Center. It's an enormous windowless basement room where thousands must be funneled up and down only a few escalators, and it takes about an hour to be emptied after a meeting is over. The crush of people struggling to get to the escalators is unbelievable, even when everyone is trying to be patient and polite. "What if someone panicked and pushed?" I always think. "We'd go down like a wave of dominoes." So in all but two sessions, I stayed in the press room and listened to proceedings on earphones. One good thing! You can stand at the top of the escalator and see who you can recognize as 23,000 ride by you.

On Sunday morning, June 2, Juanita Hight and I left Louisville, Miss., in her LTD station wagon, at 5:20. Beforehand, she had prepared English muffins and hot coffee so we could have breakfast on the road. By the time the Woman's Missionary Union meeting began that afternoon, we'd been checked into Atlanta's Hyatt Regency for an hour.

They said it was six blocks from the Hyatt to the World Congress Center. It seemed farther than that, but then I never went straight there. For a \$1 token, a body could ride Marta, the subway. Juanita and I tried it, but we walked farther than six blocks, we figured, going to the station, up and down escalators, and searching for the proper tracks. In a distance of only two station stops, we had to change trains midway!

Since, for \$2 each, we could ride a taxi, we changed our mode of transportation. I met about as many Africans driving Atlanta taxis as I had met in Seoul at the Baptist World Alliance! From Nigeria, Ghana, Sierra Leone, Ethiopia . . . Of six, four said they were Christians, one an Ethiopian Orthodox, and one a Muslim who accepted my offer of a gift New Testament.

Though the Congress Center is filled with places to buy food, I preferred a light and airy soup and salad place at the Omni, next door. Wednesday, at the "Friends of the BWA Breakfast" in the Hyatt, I heard Denton Lotz bring "Good News from a Far Country," and joined hands with others at my table to sing "Blest Be the Tie That Binds." One of the others

was Nilson Fanini of Rio, Brazil, a BWA vice president. That same day, at the Southwestern Seminary luncheon in the Omni Ballroom, Juanita and I had a ringside seat as President Dilday brought his report, and Distinguished Alumni awards were presented to Eloise Glass Cauthen, Bill Glass, and Ralph Langley. Next to me sat Morris Chapman and his wife.

Speaking of Chapman, I thought he presided with fairness and courtesy. Perhaps his Mississippi roots were showing? When he brought greetings to attendees of the WMU meeting, he mentioned that his interest in missions and his appreciation of Woman's Missionary Union stem from his RA days in Kosciusko.

One day, Herb Stoneman, pastor of Calvary Church, Idaho Falls, Idaho, saw my press ribbon and said, "I have a news note for you. I want to tell Mississippi Baptists that pastors in our area appreciate the suits your Brotherhood has sent us for years. They have been a real blessing. In fact, I brought one with me and planned to wear it today, but decided the weather might be too warm for it and wore a lighter weight one."

A story about President George Bush's speech is printed elsewhere in the BR. Though his appearance was not to be until 11:45, long lines formed well before the 7 a.m. opening of the auditorium doors: an enormous crowd sat and waited almost five hours to hear him. A Scripture that the President quoted: "God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble" (Psalm 46:1).

## Lottie falls short

By Marty Croll

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — Southern Baptists' annual foreign missions offering has registered a drop for the first time in 53 years, but the more than \$79.3 million received may allow some expansion to continue in 1991.

What could be immediately affected are plans to fund capital needs for new construction, equipment, and vehicles as the missions enterprise expands. But Foreign Mission Board President R. Keith Parks said Southern Baptists will not retrench in efforts to expand world missions.

If the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering had reached its \$86 million goal, it would have provided 47.06 percent of the board's \$182.7-million budget in 1991. The denomination's Cooperative Program unified budget was scheduled to provide 37.95 percent — or \$69.3 million.

When the books closed on the 1990 Lottie Moon offering May 31, Southern Baptists had sent \$79,358,610.87 to help finance foreign missions throughout the world. It was the second highest

total since the offering began in 1888, topped only by last year's \$80-million total. But it was the first time in 53 years that it failed to surpass giving from the previous year.

The Lottie Moon offering, generally collected by Southern Baptist congregations during December, is believed to be the largest single offering of its kind among Christians.

Despite the downturn, Southern Baptists will continue expanding involvement in Eastern Europe and in areas of the Middle East and Soviet Union that, until recently, had been closed to Christian witness for centuries, FMB President Parks said.

"We're not retrenching," Parks said. "We will trust in the Lord . . . and move ahead with faith and optimism." Fortunately, many overseas Baptist groups with which missionaries work are maturing and bearing increased financial responsibility in their nations, he added.

Croll writes for FMB.

## CHAPMAN

From page 3

ed annual reports from the Southern Baptist Annuity Board, Radio and Television Commission, Home Mission Board and American Bible Society.

The Annuity Board reported assets surpassed \$3 billion mark during the last 12 months and that contributions to retirement plans and relief receipts

reached \$180,971,775, up more than \$10 million.

The report of the Home Mission Board said Southern Baptists baptized 370,000 persons last year, an increase of 7.7 percent.

The Radio and Television report told of the production of two major documentary programs for NBC and ABC, and of a new series of daily readings from the Bible for radio audiences.

## LETTERS FROM CAREY - Fulfilling Our Ministry

By Hardy Denham, Minister-in-Residence and Coordinator of Church Related Vocations

June 13, 1991

**"See that you fulfill the ministry which you have received in the Lord." Colossians 4:17**

Paul's word to Archippus was to fulfill his ministry, and fulfilling a ministry is what we seek to do at William Carey College. That ministry includes the task of cooperating and working with our churches in carrying out the Great Commission.

### DISTINCTIVE DIFFERENCE

For years I have listened to pastors debate the issue of what makes our Baptist colleges different from state owned and supported institutions. Some have argued that since they both are academic institutions, and since state supported schools have access to greater financial resources than the denomination can provide, we, as Baptists, should get out of the college business.

The difference between the denominational college and the state owned institution is not so much in the term Christian (it has been twisted and stretched to apply to much that is not Christian), but in the more difficult to define reality called spiritual values. In a sense the denominational college is an extension of the ministry of the local church. It is an academic institution which stresses academic excellence in the context of Christian principles and values. Its purpose is to prepare people to better serve the Lord God and people in the local church, community and world at large.

### CHURCH MINISTRIES

Service is a major aspect of the life of William Carey College. First, we put a major emphasis on enlisting and preparing men and women for church related vocations. Then we

assist them in obtaining the opportunity of exercising their God-given gifts and calling. One half of the CRV students enrolled in William Carey College during the 1990-91 academic year serve churches in a ministerial capacity. Half of those serving began their ministries during this school year as a result of the College working with the local church in placing students in service.

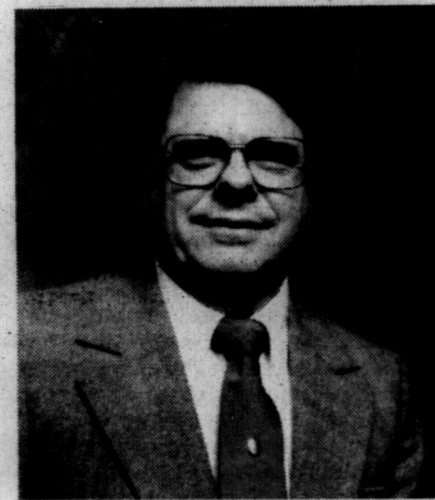
### MISSION TRIPS

Another aspect of fulfilling our ministry is seen in Baptist student work. BSU Director Candace Boyd is an excellent role model for service. She leads students to be involved in missions as well as service. With the influence of Dr. William Clawson, professor emeritus of Missions and Biblical Studies, Candace has just returned from Nicaragua where she used her nursing training as part of a mission

team from Hattiesburg. Candace also accompanied a group of 20 Carey students to Indiana where they conducted a week-long door-to-door survey in the mornings, taught backyard Bible studies in the afternoons, and led in a citywide youth revival in the evenings. There were several professions of faith, and during that week one of our senior students on the mission team was called to preach.

### SERVICE ACTIVITIES

Finally, a number of our students are involved in mission and service activities during the summer vacation. These students serve in several states as well as abroad. The emphasis on service and missions at Carey resulted in more than double the number of participants in planned missions and service activities this summer as compared with 1990.



Rev. Hardy Denham Jr.

We have a ministry at Carey "received in the Lord." It is more than just teaching academic disciplines. It is teaching in the context of Christian principles and values which include an emphasis on service and missions. Having received this ministry "in the Lord," we are endeavoring to fulfill it.

(P.S. Next Week: Meeting Church Needs)

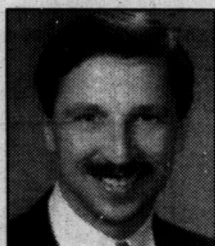


# HOUSETOPS

What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light: and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the housetops. Matthew 10:27 NAS

June 13, 1991

HOUSETOPS is a supplement to the **Baptist Record** and is produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.



## All About Chickens And Eggs

by David Morrow, Consultant  
Discipleship Training Dept., MBCB

There has long been a debate on farms as to the origin of chicken. More specifically, which came first, the chicken or the egg. The advocates of the "One Egg Theory" often attain preeminence for it is obvious to us all that this must be the starting place. After all what could possibly be younger than an egg? However, the "Original Chicken Theorists" sometimes win out with their logic that surely there was one great "Eve Hen" that laid that first egg.

In today's world of specialization, this type debate has even become important in the controversial Christian Barnyard! You see, now some are strutting and crowing that without me and my egg of evangelism there is no need for disciple making. There will simply be no one to disciple. Others may scratch the dirt and argue saying "who would be out doing that egg evangelism, without the proper nurture of those young Christian Chicks? Who will become the evangelists?"

Have we become too specialized? We all know that it takes both evangelism and discipleship to accomplish the task of "Going therefore and making disciples..." (Matt.28:19,20). And even though one may out shine the other in the eyes of man, in God's eyes it is just one single continuing process, never ending till the end of this present earth. The natural cycle of birth and nurture, evangelism and discipling; discipling and evangelism. Like a ring, once forged there is no beginning and no end. Without a doubt we may be better at one over the other, but both go hand in hand as the Christian's responsibility, or commission. Perhaps too many of us have gotten so specialized that we do neither. Look for someone that God can reach through you. Evangelism and discipleship were never meant to be complicated. It is simply your sharing with someone else what God has done for you. It may be a memorized presentation, if that expresses what God has done for you. It may be some special scriptures that have meaning for you. It may simply be your testimony of what God has done for you. Our problem is not what to say, our problem is saying it!

Maybe Warren Myers summed it up best when he said "Evangelism is simply sitting at the feet of Jesus, and telling people what you see."

As far as chicken and eggs go, I really don't care, I like them both fried! **HT**

*This series of articles deals with how to become a Christian or how to share your faith. Articles by others will follow in future issues of HouseTops.*

## A Contemporary Worship Celebration!

# YOUTH NIGHT '91



**Paul Smith**  
*Energetic and exciting, Paul Smith is a remarkable Christian concert artist who will also lead us in praise and worship.*



**Louie Giglio**  
*Louie is a man whose passionate love for God fuels a desire to communicate Truth to youth. You'll be challenged as Louie shares with fresh insight about some really important life issues.*



**Doug Wood**  
*Doug Wood is just what the doctor ordered with his unique style of comedy, unusual and exotic instruments, and humorous and heartfelt music. His is a wonderful gift of laughter and joy in the Christian faith.*

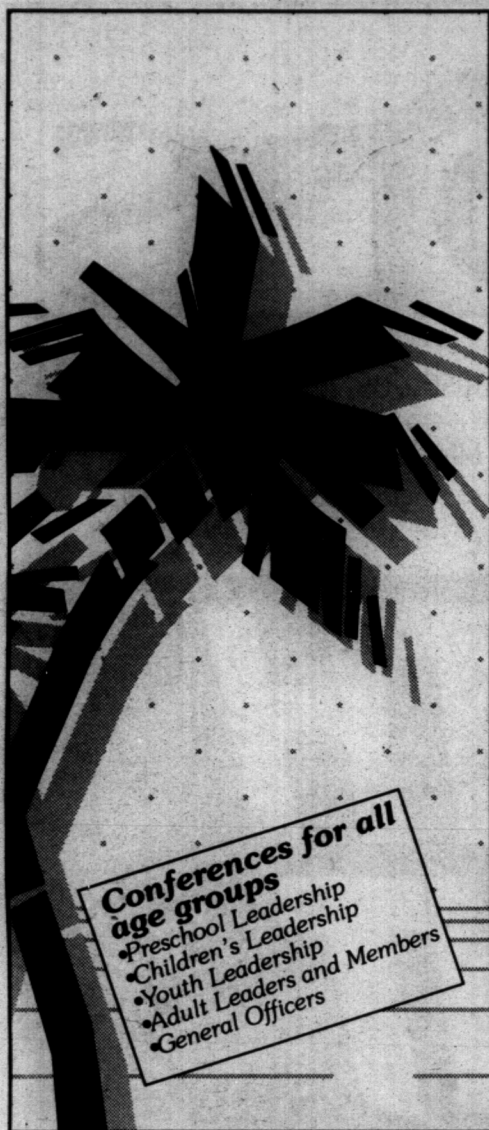
**Mississippi Baptist Youth Night**  
**Friday, July 26**

**In the Coliseum with overflow in the Trademart**  
**6:40 Pre-program Activity • 7:00 Program Begins**

### Begin now to pray for Youth Night

Encourage your youth to bring their unsaved and inactive friends. • Encourage each person to bring a Bible. • Appropriate dress is requested. • Groups are requested to sit together. • Please provide one adult sponsor per one to seven youth. • Sponsors should sit among the group. • **It is strongly requested that group leaders allow no movement from the seating area after 7:00 p.m.** • No alcoholic beverages, tobacco products, or illegal drugs will be permitted. • No radios or taping equipment will be permitted.





## The Sunday School Standard — A Tool for Evaluation and Goal Setting

The Sunday School Standard is a valuable resource for a growing Sunday School to plan and evaluate its work. Beginning in October of 1991 a new Sunday School Standard will be used. Below you see a copy of this Standard. Sunday School leaders can use this Standard to evaluate their present Sunday School organization. They may do this by checking each of the items that they are presently doing. Those items that are not checked may be used as goals for the coming Sunday School year.

Recognition will be given to those Sunday Schools that meet the requirements during any twelve month period. A Sunday School must reach twenty-one of the Standard actions including all seventeen starred actions to be recognized as a Standard Sunday School. Recognition as a Sunday School is requested from the Sunday School Department, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

More details on the new Sunday School Standard is available in the administrative book, *BREAKTHROUGH: Sunday School Work*, available at the Baptist Book Store. Sunday School leaders may also receive information at Sunday School Leadership conferences at Gulfshore Baptist Assembly on August 1-3; August 8-10; September 6-7; and September 13-14.

### I. Make a commitment to Reach People

- \*1. The Sunday School has set an annual enrollment growth goal.
2. The school has conducted a preparation event.

### II. Identify and Enroll People

- \*1. The Sunday School has a prospect file, arranged by class and department, as appropriate for the Sunday School organization.
- \*2. The Sunday School has conducted a People Search or another prospect discovery activity in the past twelve months.
3. The Sunday School has adopted an open enrollment policy which calls for

enrolling anyone at anytime and at any place as long as the person is to be enrolled.

### III. Start new classes, departments, and Sunday Schools

- \*1. New classes, departments, ongoing Bible study groups begin in the Sunday School, and/or Sunday Schools are started when or where the guidelines found in *BREAKTHROUGH: Sunday School Work* are followed.

### IV. Enlist Workers

- \*1. Workers are enlisted personally according to the church plan and informed of their duties.
- \*2. Workers are members of the church and elected by the church.
3. Workers are installed or charged during the Sunday School year. Some kind of worker appreciation activity was conducted or is planned.

### V. Train Workers







- \*1. The Sunday School has conducted at least one group study of the books required on the Sunday School Leadership Diploma during the last twelve months.
2. At least one-half of the workers earned credit for a church conference during the last twelve months.

### VI. Provide Space Equipment and Materials

- \*1. Sunday School literature published by the Baptist Sunday School Board is used by all age groups.
2. At least one-half of the classes/departments meet the minimum requirements for space, furnishings, and equipment as recommended in *BREAKTHROUGH: Sunday School Work*.
3. A record system that records enrollment, attendance, offering, and other pupil/worker information is maintained and used.

*Continued on Next Page*

## Student Summer Missionaries Serving In Mississippi

Student	College	Hometown	Association Serving	Assignment Vacation Bible School Day Camps - Retreats
 Robert Clifton Cross	William Carey College	Quitman, MS	New Choctaw	Survey Work GA/RA Work New Sunday School Starts
 James Ryan Hyer	Delta State University	Benoit, MS	Pontotoc	Resort Ministries Vacation Bible School Backyard Bible Clubs
 Tonya Michelle Redeemer	William Carey College	Wiggins, MS	North Delta	Church Community Ministries
 Linda Sue Sager	Lee College	Baytown, TX	Monroe	Youth Program Resort Ministries Recreation
 David R. Tarver	University of Southern MS	Natchez, MS	Pike	Youth Program Resort Ministries Recreation
 Paul Wilson Young	William Carey College	Columbia, MS	North Delta	Vacation Bible School Big A Clubs

J. Ray Crissett, Director Richard Brogan, Consultant  
Helping to Bring Mississippi and the world to Jesus  
Enabling churches and associations to do missions and ministries in their settings



## Discipline Training Conference

Gulfshore  
Baptist Assembly  
July 11-14

# HOUSE OF GODS



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Discipleship  
Training  
Conference

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Assembly  
11-13, 1991

## "The Power to Bless"

### 1991 Family Week at Gulfshore July 1-5

**Preacher:** Bill Harrison, Georgia Baptist Convention, Atlanta

**Bible Study:** Ron Mumbower,  
First Baptist Church, Jackson

**Music Leadership:** R. L. and Beth Sigrest  
Sacred Music Ministries, Inc.  
Yazoo City

#### Helpful conferences led by competent family practitioners

Parenting for Parents of Preschool and Elementary Children  
Overcoming a Dysfunctional Past  
Love, Anger, and Intimacy in Marriage  
Parenting for Parents of teenagers  
What is Co-Dependency?  
Communication: How to Hear and be Heard  
Black Families and Black Churches

**Experienced leadership for children and youth.**

**Planned recreation. Free time for family fun.**

*A family vacation you can afford with  
spiritual experience you cannot afford to miss!*

Make reservations by sending \$30 deposit for an individual or \$60 for a family  
to Gulfshore along with names and birthdates of children.

A ministry of the Family Ministry Section  
Discipleship Training Department, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board  
Horace L. Kerr, Contract Section Manager, Mose Dangerfield, Department Director  
Eugene Dobbs, Administrative Assistant for Ministry  
Bill Causey, Executive Director-Treasurer

The Sunday School Standard Continued

#### VII. Teach the Bible to Win the Lost and Develop the Saved.

- \*1. The Bible is used as the textbook of the Sunday School and members are encouraged to bring their own Bibles.
- \*2. The school maintains an up-to-date list of lost members and parents and makes a sincere effort to win them to Christ.
- \*3. Workers and members are regularly encouraged to read the Bible and pray daily, and to study their Sunday School lessons.
- \*4. Workers and members are regularly encouraged to attend the morning worship service.
- \*5. The Sunday School sessions are at least one hour in length.
- \*6. The Sunday School has provided within the last twelve months at least one special Bible Study opportunity for members and prospects at times other than Sunday morning (Vacation Bible School, January Bible Study, etc.).
- \*7. Sunday School members have been made aware of the church's stewardship and mission program and encouraged to participate through the Sunday School.

#### VIII. Conduct Weekly Workers Meetings

- \*1. The Sunday School has a weekly or monthly meeting of its workers that is at least forty-five minutes in length.

#### IX. Conduct Weekly Evangelistic and Ministry Visitation

- \*1. The Sunday School has a regularly scheduled time (or times) each week for its visitation.
- \*2. Continuing efforts are being made to win lost Sunday School members and prospects to Christ.
- \*3. Plans are made and implemented to provide systematic involvement of members and leaders in ministry to members and prospects. HT

## "Experience the Word"

Improved Sunday School literature helps churches present unchanging truths in a changing world. Churches have asked for teaching materials that empower them to meet people's changing needs. Sunday School leaders have listened to suggestions from church staff persons and Sunday School leaders, teachers, and members from churches of various sizes. Based on this input, they have made improvements to help churches to achieve BREAKTHROUGH in evangelism, enrollment, attendance, teaching, learning and ministering through the Sunday School.

Improved Sunday School literature is available for the October, November, December quarter of 1991. Churches will be placing orders for that literature this July.

Many church and Sunday School leaders will be evaluating their curriculum selections during these next several weeks. Sunday School literature provides leaders with guides in helping to make Bible study more effective. The Bible is the text of the Sunday School. Curriculum materials provide assistance to leaders and members to experience the Word.

Special brochures and information are available from the associational office or the Sunday School Department upon request. HT

## WANT A TITHING CHURCH?

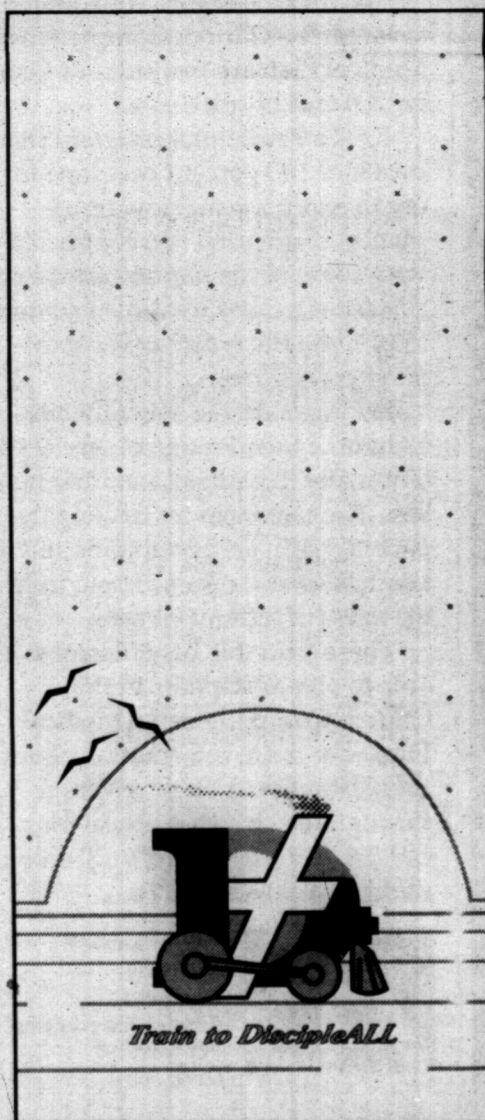
Resident Members	Churches Without Discipleship Training	Churches with Discipleship Training
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Percentage of Undesignated Receipts  
Given to Cooperative Program

Under 100	5.7 %	6.9 %
100-199	6.3	8.1
200-299	7.5	9.4
300-399	8.2	10.7
500-749	9.1	11.3
1000-1999	9.4	11.8
2000-up	6.4	10.0
Average	7.4	10.5

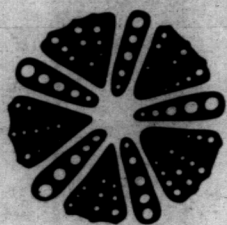
A comparison of churches with Discipleship Training and those without Discipleship Training reveals that churches with discipleship programs excel in three major areas: Sunday School enrollment, baptisms, and Cooperative Program giving. This holds true in every size category. Discipleship Training indeed makes a difference!

## START DISCIPLESHIP TRAINING

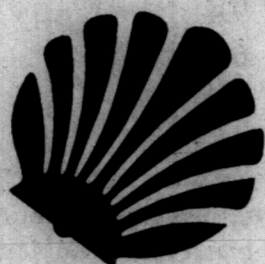




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These valuable benefits are available to all participants in the Church Comprehensive Medical Plan. For more information about these benefits or other coverage through the church medical plan, call the Annuity Board's toll-free number, 1-800-262-0511.



Annuity Board  
of the  
Southern  
Baptist Convention  
P.O. Box 2190  
Dallas, Texas 75221-2190

## Calvary Baptist Church, Greenwood presents gift to Central Hills

The Brotherhood of the Calvary Baptist Church in Greenwood has presented a new Marlin .22 bolt action rifle to the Royal Ambassador Camp

at Central Hills Baptist Retreat in Kosciusko. The rifle will be used in the activity program for summer missions camp sessions. Mr. James Roberts is Brotherhood Director at Calvary.

The Central Hills activity instructor will use the setting of the rifle target range to teach the gospel and apply the scripture to the lives of campers who attend the summer camp sessions. **HT**

## A Special Invitation To All Church WMU Leaders

Come to Camp Garaywa for training to begin the new church year. **Choose a session from the list below:**

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FBC, Tupelo, 6:30-9 p.m.

August 20 - FBC, Hattiesburg, 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

FBC, Tupelo, 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

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HOUSETOPS



# Centennial speakers laud Sunday School Board

By Linda Lawson



## Southern Baptists: Continuing Christ's Mission

Baptist Heritage Month  
June 1991

To obtain free guidelines and materials to help your church celebrate Baptist Heritage Month, write the Historical Commission, SBC, 901 Commerce St., Suite 400, Nashville, TN 37203-3620. Or call 615-244-0344.

NASHVILLE (BP) — "A parade of great and ordinary people who have literally changed the face of the denomination" distinguishes the 100-year history of the Sunday School Board, Grady Cothen said during "Employees' Day," the first of three days of chapel services May 22-24 concluding the board's centennial celebration.

Cothen, who was president of the SBC church programs and publishing board 1975-84, contrasted the opening of New York City's Carnegie Hall in May 1891, with the meeting the same month where messengers to the Southern Baptist Convention in Birmingham, Ala., voted to establish the Sunday School Board.

"The hall was about arts and pleasure. This institution was about the Book (Bible) and the Christ and the needy people of the world," said Cothen.

Through its literature, the board has contributed to denominationalizing and unifying the denomination in its doctrine, heritage, polity, and evangelism, said Cothen.

"I cannot recall a day in my 70 years that there has not been some Christian literature from this board in my home," he said.

Through the sale of its literature, the board not only has supported itself but "has supported virtually every good cause the denomination has sponsored, helping to start many of them," said Cothen.

Dellanna O'Brien, executive direc-

tor of Woman's Missionary Union, said the board paid the rent on WMU headquarters in Birmingham for 27 years and then contributed toward their first permanent building.

"Many are the ties that bind us together," she said. "We have not forgotten." She presented an eight-foot grandfather's clock from WMU as a centennial gift to the board.

James L. Sullivan, president of the board 1953-75, said during the second service, "Retirees' Day," in the past 100 years, "God has proven to us he is with us every step of the way."

Sullivan compared the board's history to the Pony Express carrying the mail from the East Coast to the West Coast.

He characterized the administrations of Frost, Bell, Van Ness, and Holcomb, then "Just when we got to the Mississippi River, it was my turn. Grady Cothen got the plains, and he took off like a rocket. Elder (current president Lloyd Elder) not only had the highest hill, but he got a bucking bronco as well."

"But we will ascend the mountain," said Sullivan. "We'll go through the valleys of California. We'll deliver the message when we get to the Pacific."

Among testimonies of retired employees of the board, Leonard Wedel, retired director of the office of personnel, described a five-day field trip to Mississippi in 1945 in which his train fare, hotel, and food bills totaled \$39.61.

Phil Harris, retired director of the Church Training (now Discipleship Training) Department, said, "If I had it to do all over again, I'd want to come back to the Baptist Sunday School Board and give my life."

H. Franklin Paschall, pastor emeritus of First Church of Nashville, spoke at the closing service, "Anniversary Day," held at the church where the organizational meeting of the board was held in 1891.

Noting the issue of establishing the board had been the source of a six-year denominational controversy, Paschall said, "The challenge of dissent may have given the Sunday School Board stronger structure and fiber than it would have had otherwise."

Paschall announced he is giving his library to the board's E.C. Dargan Research Library. The library includes Paschall's books and those of his predecessor at the church, W.F. Powell.

During the service, James D. Williams, executive vice president of the board, presented to Elder a framed print of the painting by First Church member Burnard Wiley depicting the arrival of the first trustees at the church in 1891.

The three services marked the formal conclusion to the observance which began with a pageant at the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting last year in New Orleans.

Lawson writes for BSSB.

## Horace Glass, DOM, retires

Horace M. Glass has announced his retirement as director of missions of the George-Greene area missions program, effective July 1, 1991.

The Area Missions Committee is planning a retirement reception for Mr. and Mrs. Glass on Sunday, June 23 at 3 p.m. at Rocky Creek Church. The public is invited.

Glass was born in Elmore County, Ala. in the community of Friendship, near Tallassee. At age 27 he surrendered to God's call to be a minister. He was ordained in 1955 and enrolled in Howard College, now Samford University, Birmingham. While at college he was pastor of Beulah Church, Wetumpka, Ala.

While at New Orleans Seminary, he was called to pastor Barton Church, Lucedale. He graduated from seminary in May, 1962.

He continued to serve Barton until January 1974. At that time he accepted the call to become director of missions of the George-Greene area.

"During 17 years as director of missions, he has given sacrificial devotion and service to the churches of George and Greene Association," states John Henry, present Barton pastor.

Glass and his wife Betty plan to continue to live in Leakesville, Miss.

As the pastor began his Sunday sermon, there was a loud clap of thunder, signaling the start of a downpour. "Isn't that just like the Lord?" he said. "Here we are sitting and relaxing and He's out there washing our cars." — The Capitol Courier

## God's plan of salvation

1. GOD LOVES ALL PERSONS — "But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us" (Rom. 5:8).

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life" (John 3:16).

2. BUT ALL PERSONS ARE SINNERS — "For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God" (Rom. 3:23).

"For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord" (Rom. 6:23).

3. THE HOLY SPIRIT CONVICTS YOU OF SIN — "And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin... because they believe not on me" (John 16:8-9).

4. YOUR RESPONSE IS TO REPENT OF SIN — "... for I am not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance" (Matt. 9:13). "... the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel" (Mark 1:15).

5. AND TO TRUST (place faith) IN CHRIST AS SAVIOR AND LORD — "That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation... For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved" (Rom. 10:9-10, 13).

6. PRAY FOR SALVATION — Lord Jesus, I confess to you that I am a sinner. I believe that you died for my sin and that God has raised you from the dead. I repent of my sin, and I ask you to forgive me and to save me from my sin right now. Thank you for saving me and for giving me eternal life. In Your name I pray.

Amen.

### FIRST STEPS OF OBEDIENCE

1. PUBLICLY CONFESS YOUR FAITH — "Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven. But whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father which is in heaven" (Matt. 10:32-33).

2. FOLLOW THE LORD IN BAPTISM — "Then they that gladly received his word were baptized; and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls" (Acts 2:41).

3. JOIN A BIBLE-BELIEVING CHURCH — The person who shared this plan of salvation with you can tell you how to become a member of a Bible-believing church where you can find new Christian friends and grow in your new life in Christ.

## Simpson plans area crusade

"Here's Hope, Jesus Cares For You" is the message which the Simpson Association is proclaiming in an area wide Crusade June 23-26 on the Mendenhall football field.

Evangelist for the crusade will be Perry Sanders, pastor of First Church of Lafayette, La. Music will be under the direction of L. Graham Smith, MBCB.

There will be special guests each evening who will share their testimonies beginning with Jerry Stovall, athletic director of Louisiana Tech, who will speak on Sunday night.

Monday night's guest will be Sheldon Gooch, a Christian singer who began his ministry from behind the closed door of his prison cell, but because of the dramatic change in his life and the prayers of many friends, was pardoned and continues to share Christ.

Kim McGuffee, 1986 Miss Mississippi, and who also placed in the top 10 at the Miss America Pageant, will share her testimony.

Wednesday night Joel Logan, 1991 Senior placekicker for Mississippi State will represent the Fellowship of Christian Athletes. Logan led the Bulldogs in scoring and twice his kicks have provided the margin of victory for MSU.

Saturday, June 22, Michael Peterson, a former All-American football player and member of the 1980 National Championship College team, will perform a Christian concert at

The five most important words are, "I am proud of you." The four most important words are, "What is your opinion?" The three most important words are, "If you please." The two most important words are, "Thank you."

the Crusade Youth Rally, also to be held under the tent at 7 p.m.

All services for the crusade begin at 7 p.m. nightly.

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CLASSIFIED BY: [illegible]  
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# Just for the Record



The Baptist Student Union of Mississippi State University has recently elected Executive Council officers for the 1991-92 school year. The members are: left to right, (first row) Wes Bowen, worship/study director, Tupelo; Melanie Groner, vice-president, Pearl; Suzanne Teel, social director, Clarksdale; Shellye Hammons, student outreach director, Magee; Stephanie Shriner, community outreach director, Starkville; Colbey Penton, publicity director, Picayune; Kent Marshall, president, Vicksburg; (second row) Steve Wampler, international director, Starkville; Michael Bowers, student center director, New Orleans; Christy Carley, fine arts director, Sumrall; June C. Scoggins, associate BSU director, Starkville; Ken Watkins, BSU director, Starkville; Susan Lee, missions director, Starkville; Jason Allen, discipleship coordinator, Starkville; and Kip Ray, intramural director, Starkville.



First Church, Pontotoc, held a recognition service with the theme, "Tell the Good News," for first, second, and third grade GAs May 8. Those who participated are shown left to right, front row: Heather Young, Ashley Gillen; second row, Casey Dillard, Kitty Hand; third row, Dana Whitworth, Samantha Montgomery, and Forrest Dillard. Not pictured is Sarah Gibbs. Ed Deuschle is pastor.



First Church, Pontotoc, held a recognition service for fourth, fifth, and sixth grade GAs May 8. Those sharing ways to "Tell the Good News" are shown, front row, left to right, Tressie Prewitt, Holly Deuschle, Laura Johnson; second row, Marla Crenshaw, Heather Thompson, Robbie Patterson, Krista Montgomery; third row, Monica Ausderau, Joli Crenshaw, Sarah Rutledge, and Amber Crausby. Not pictured is Stephanie Rorie. Ed Deuschle is pastor.



A recognition service for the Acteens of Emmanuel Church, Marion Association, was held in February. The theme of the program was "A Heart for Missions." Four Acteens received their Crowns for Queen. Pictured are Shannon Landrum, Angel Powell, Rebecca King, and Teri Ann King. Rick Patterson is pastor of Emmanuel Church.

Emmanuel Church sanctuary choir of Grenada will present the patriotic musical, "TO BE AN AMERICAN," June 30 and July 1 at 7 p.m. in the forum of Holmes Community College in Grenada. The musical will be under the direction of J. Barry Worrell, minister of music at Emmanuel Church. Clarence Cooper Jr., is pastor at Emmanuel.

The older I get the more wisdom I find in the ancient rule of taking first things first — a process which often reduces the most complex human problems to manageable proportion. — Dwight D. Eisenhower

## Standard: Jesus set the example

By Jim Brannon

Everything needs a standard by which to measure its worth, fidelity, or purity. Without such a standard, everything becomes right in its own eyes. What, then, is the standard for discipleship? What do we use to measure how well we are doing the work Christ has given us to do? Do we look around and find someone who is doing less than we, and judge ourselves faithful? If this is the only criteria we consider, then we have become right in our own eyes.

Obviously, our standard is Jesus, and he translated the message in terms we can understand. When describing the kind of discipleship commitment we must have, he talked in terms of "letting the dead bury the dead," and "not looking back after putting our hand to the plow." We have to focus on something outside ourselves. I cannot make myself the norm for my life. I cannot be selfish and little. I must live for Christ, which means living with others in mind.

Jesus talked about foxes having holes and birds having nests; but he had no place to dwell. He talked about counting the cost before building and denying ourselves to follow him. The saddest people, and churches, are those who make every decision on the basis of how convenient it will be for them. Such decision making misses the standard of Jesus by a country mile!

As we try to keep faith with the commission of Jesus, we must be alert! Satan knows that the best way to sidetrack our dedication is to get us to transfer our attention to self. We must let Jesus "call the plays." If you wonder what "plays" he will call, look at his example in the New Testament. Everything he challenges us to be, or do, he set the example. He is Lord! Let's make sure we acknowledge his lordship in our discipleship commitment!

Brannon is pastor, Highland Church, Meridian.

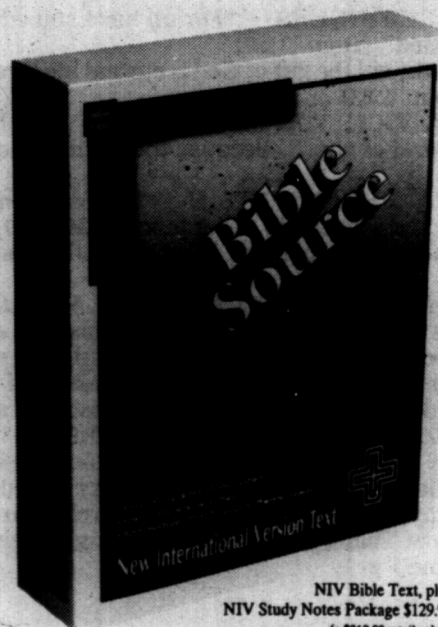
## Book reviews

### New books

*Seasons of the Lord* by Herbert Lockyer (HarperCollins, 384 pp., \$16.95). Bible-centered devotions for the entire year.

*The Spirit of the Disciplines* by Dallas Willard (HarperCollins, 276 pp., \$8.95). What activities did Jesus practice? Solitude, silence, prayer, simple and sacrificial living, and service to others.

*How Can I Believe When I Live in a World Like This?* by Reginald Stackhouse (HarperCollins, 147 pp., \$16.95). If this world is all there is, is it good enough? Reconciling beliefs with events.



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## ANNOUNCEMENT OF POSITION OPENING DIRECTOR OF PRESCHOOL MINISTRIES

**JOB DESCRIPTION:** The First Baptist Church of Auburn, Alabama, is announcing the opening of the position of Director of Preschool Ministries. The director will be responsible for the planning, promoting and directing of the church's total Christian education program for preschoolers, including the direction of the Child Development Center. The Child Development Center is a full-time day care program with an enrollment of 70 children and a full-time staff of 10 employees. The church preschool enrollment is approximately 100 children.

**QUALIFICATIONS:** (1) Have a degree or degrees in early childhood or elementary education (or related field) from an accredited school. (2) Have experience in teaching and/or directing a program of instruction. (3) Be a Christian and willing to become an active member of FBC, Auburn.

**SALARY:** Salary is budgeted at \$23,000 plus medical, retirement, and other benefits.

**APPLICATION INFORMATION:** Interested individuals should send a letter of interest and a resume to Dr. Charlotte Sutton, FBC, P. O. Box 1191, Auburn, AL 36831-1191.

**APPLICATION DEADLINE IS JULY 8, 1991.**

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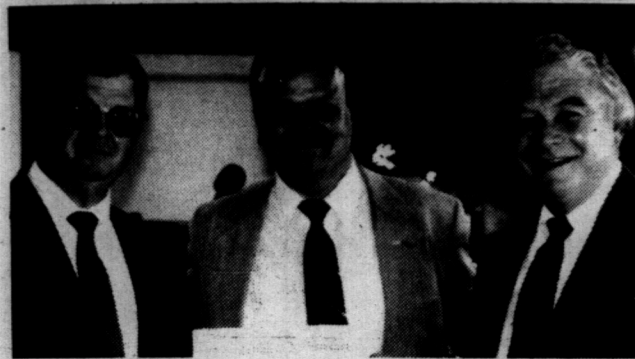
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# Names in the news

BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 9

Thursday, June 13, 1991



Lizana Church, Gulf Coast Association, ordained Harold L. Jacobs Jr. to the gospel ministry on March 10 at the request of Trinity Church, Biloxi. Pictured, left to right, are Robert O. "Red" Bowen, pastor, Friendship Church, Biloxi, who brought the Charge to Candidate; Jacobs; and Gerald H. Walker, pastor of Lizana Church.

Mack S. Mason was ordained to the gospel ministry by Ridglea Heights Church, Escatawpa, Jan. 13. He was presented a Bible by the church during that service. Mason attends Clarke College and is pastoring Cross Roads Church in Decatur. He and his wife, Vera, have two children: Channing, 7 years old and Katelyn, 2 months old. Mason and his family make their home in Hickory.

J. David Southerland, former Mississippi pastor, was honored by Stetson University, DeLand, Fla., as one of four Florida Baptist Ministers of the Year during its 21st annual luncheon, April 5. Southerland, pastor of Stetson Church, DeLand, Fla., was honored as a pastor of a church with 1,000 or more members. Before going to Stetson Church in 1988, he and his wife, the former Mary Lynn Perkins of Macon, spent six years as foreign missionaries to France and Belgium. They have two children, Shane, 20, and Cheryl, 10.

While a student at Mississippi College, Southerland was pastor of Providence Church, Carrollton; McCauley Church, McCauley; and Cary Church, Cary.

Delia Hilderbrand Martin, 98, widow of Robert W. Martin, died May 28. Services were held May 30 at Wilson and Knight Funeral Home chapel in Greenwood.

A native of Yazoo County, she had lived in Greenwood since 1946. She was a member of First Church.

Survivors include three sons: Robert W. Martin Jr., of Rayville, La., Cliff Martin of Greenwood, and Hugh A. Martin, pastor of Spring Creek Church of Philadelphia, nine grandchildren, and 16 great-grandchildren.

Ministers conducting the services included her two minister sons, Robert and Hugh.



Sheila Harbison, right, was recipient of the Newton County WMU Scholarship given recently during Awards Day ceremonies at Clarke College. Established in 1982 by the associational WMU of Newton County, the award is given annually to the wife of a ministerial student. Sheila and her husband Julius are natives of Bayou LaBatre, Ala. She is a freshman majoring in religious education. Pictured with her is Belina Gilstrap, associational WMU president, Newton Association.

A. O. Collins said he plans to stay busy preaching, writing, and traveling after retiring from 28 years as professor and 16 years as chairman of the Department of Christianity and Philosophy at Houston Baptist University, Houston, Tex. Collins has been at the university since it opened in 1963. Having received his B. A. from Mississippi College, his Ph.D. from Southern Seminary, and advanced study at Cambridge University in England, Collins pastored several churches before joining the university. He will continue supply preaching, interim pastorates, and Bible study weeks as he has since 1963.



Loretta G. Rivers, right, of Union received the Outstanding Student Award during a recent chapel service at New Orleans Seminary. Rivers was one of five students to receive awards. She presently serves as an intern in the Carver Baptist Center in New Orleans. (Photo by Kevin Devine)

## VACATION

### BIBLE SCHOOL

Gum Grove Church, Brookhaven: June 17-21; 8:30-11:30 a.m.; preschool-6th grade; Sammy McDonald.

First Church, Runnelstown, Petal: June 17-21; 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. daily for nursery age through 6th grade. Mrs. Janice Culpepper will be director of the school.

Rocky Point Church (Leake): June 17-21; 9 a.m.-12:00 noon; 3-year-olds through youth; Diane Burns, director; Robert Parrish, pastor.

### "Camp Can-Do" opens June 16 at Castlewoods

Giving your child a few days at summer camp just got a lot easier, thanks to Castlewoods Church, 175 Stonecastle Drive (Castlewoods subdivision), Brandon.

"We've just turned our building into a campsite," reports Robin Polk, director of "Camp Can-Do," the church's Vacation Bible School program. "There's even a 'Bear' wandering around here someplace."

"Camp Can-Do" begins Sunday, June 16, and ends Thursday, June 20. Classes begin at 6:30 nightly.

"To register, phone the church office at 992-9977 or Robin Polk, 992-4054." Larry McDonald is pastor.

## Staff changes

Endville Church, Belden, called Barry C. Moorman as minister of youth, effective May 15. A native of Pontotoc, he is currently enrolled at Blue Mountain College.

First Church, Richland, has called E. C. Harpe of Florence as minister of music, effective June 16. A native of Pelahatchie, he received his education at Belhaven College. His previous place of service was First Presbyterian Church, Kosciusko.

Michael R. McLendon has accepted the call as pastor of Brewer Church, Richton. McLendon previously served as associate pastor, Abundant Life Baptist Church, Pensacola, Fla. He is currently studying to complete his bachelor's degree at William Carey College.

Melrose Church, Benton: June 20-23; Thurs.-Sat., 7:30 p.m.; Sunday, 11 a.m. and dinner on grounds; Bill Hutto, Hebron Church, Yazoo Association, evangelist; Robert Kates, Melrose Church, music; James H. Garner, pastor.

Mount Carmel, Edinburg (Leake): June 23-26; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Kim K. Wolverton, pastor, evangelist; Johnny Eubanks, Freney Church, Carthage, music.

Faith Church, Silver Creek: June 16-19; 7:30 nightly; Ken Harrison, evangelist; James Netherland, music; John Jones, pastor.

Ruleville Church, Ruleville: June 16-19; 7:30 nightly; former pastor Chaplain A. M. "Sonny" Moore of the 101st Airborne Division, Ft. Campbell, Ky., evangelist; Charles Jones, minister of music, First Church, Meadeville, music; Jackie Cooke, pastor.

Concord Church, Pelahatchie: June 16-21; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6:45 p.m.; Mon.-Fri., 11 a.m. and 7:30 p.m.; Hardy R. Denham Jr., coordinator for church related vocational programs, William Carey College, evangelist; Jerry Nance, Park Place Church, Brandon, music; LaVerne Sumnerlin, pastor.

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## Ebenezer Church celebrates 185 years

Mississippi's first Baptist church, Ebenezer Church in Amite County, celebrated its 185th anniversary May 5. The celebration included a homecoming and the dedication of a historical marker placed at the church by the Magnolia Chapter, Mississippi Society of the National Society of Colonial Dames XVII Century. Ebenezer Church was organized May 9, 1806 by Richard Curtis Jr. and 11 charter members. Some of their descendants participated in the dedication ceremony. Shown left to right are Francis Cole and Bonnie Cole, descendants of Richard Curtis Jr., with pastor Alvin Hall behind the marker at Ebenezer Church.

## Letters to the editor

### Costs of commitment

Editor:

In response to Geneva Faler's letter "Salvation is unmerited" I want to share my understanding of the event.

I agree that from the point in time when we accept the grace of Jesus we are saved. "There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus" (Rom. 8:1 NAS). But, as through fire as stated in 1 Cor. 3:15 NAS, "If any man's work is burned up, he shall suffer loss; but he himself shall be saved, yet so as through fire." At this point salvation is done and sanctification begins. To sanctify anything is to declare that it belongs to God. To accept Christ is to believe (John 3:16), and believing means entering into a covenant with God believing he will be faithful in his commitment to save us from hell and give us eternal life, which he has already done. A covenant or agreement always has two commitments, one for each party. Therefore, in accepting God's free grace, pardon, and salvation we have committed our lives to him to live as Christlike as possible. Having become a new creature and living a new life we are like babies, being undeveloped. Through Bible study and the leadership of the Holy Spirit we become sanctified. This will certainly cost! In fact, Jesus always said it would. Works does not save us, but it does earn us the abundant life. The committed Christian is a happy Christian in spite of the hardships and suffering of life. There is a cost. God has already saved us but heaven doesn't start until he calls us home.

As a fellow Christian I hope you understand that I do not believe it takes anything more than grace to save us, but when you accept Christ as your savior you ARE surrendering your life to him.

C. B. May Jr.  
Smithdale

### Don't soft sell salvation

Editor:

I am writing in response to the letter in the May 30 edition concerning whether "yielding your life to Jesus as Lord" constitutes a doctrine of works, thus doing away with salvation by faith alone.

Our problem lies in our conception of what it means to "believe on Jesus." Belief is not simply a mental acceptance of facts, belief necessarily means commitment. One who believes on Jesus is one who has committed himself to Jesus as Lord.

The overall teaching of our Lord is not to "accept the facts about me" but to "Follow me." In the mind of Jesus, those who believed would be those who followed him as Lord (John 14:15, 21, 23-24; Luke 9: 18-26).

Salvation is the free gift of God's grace (Eph. 2:8-9), however, we are commanded to repent and accept this gift more than once (Acts 2:38, Acts 3:19, Acts 17:30). To repent means to change the mind. This changing is under the direction of the Spirit, but it is a willful, conscious turning from sin and towards God. Salvation is purchased by the blood of Jesus Christ alone, but all who would appropriate his gift, must respond in faith which means commitment to him as Lord.

As I see it, the soft selling of "salvation without commitment" is why we have, according to Billy Graham and George Gallup, upwards of 75 percent of our church members unconverted. The New Testament teaches that belief means commitment to Christ as Lord.

Keith Powell  
pastor, Liberty Church  
Carrollton

If it weren't for the last minute, a lot of things wouldn't get done.

## Homecomings

**Faith Church, Ovett:** June 16; 11 a.m.; covered dish dinner at noon; 1:30 p.m. singing; no night services; Jeff D. Martin, Taylorsville, guest speaker; Covenant Quartet, Alton Robinson, and Patti Bush, guest singers; Thomas M. Cochran, pastor.

**Harmony Church (Carroll):** June 23; 10:30 a.m.; dinner on the grounds at noon; singing, 1:30 p.m.; no night services; Alvin Kimes, Greenwood, guest speaker; Tim Watkins, Greenville, guest singer; Ken Gower, pastor.

**Pleasant Grove Church, Brookhaven:** June 16; Sunday School; morning worship; and lunch in fellowship hall; James Watts, pastor, Branch Church, Morton, speaker. James Sanders, pastor.

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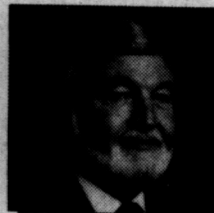


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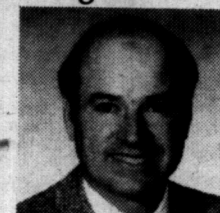
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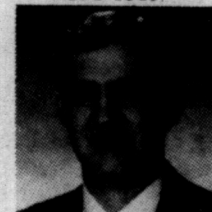
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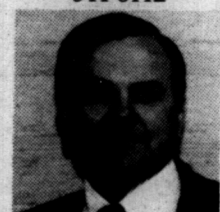
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# Facing obstacles and overcoming them

By Ruth N. Allen  
Ezra 5:1-11

The following is an excerpt from a recent column, written by Bill Easterling of the Huntsville Times.



Allen

"I thank God for the good things as well as the bad things, because He ain't going to put no more on you than you can stand." These words are from an essay in a GED class at a local Adult Learning Center, written in response to the question — "What's the worst thing that's ever happened to you?" The woman who wrote the essay took the topic for granted and gave the teacher what she asked for. She is the mother of nine children, but six are now dead. The youngest child has been in and out of prison for the past 15 years. She has been married three times. She has been seriously injured in two automobile accidents. She has been very sick recently and spent lots of time in the hospital. She says she cries and prays about her dead children, misses them terribly, but knows they are safe in the arms of God. She, who has suffered more than you'd

## UNIFORM

think one human should, mentions God and faith and prayer in most of her essays. She wants to be a nurse. It'll be tough for her to get there, and she knows it. But she's not going to quit, she's going to keep on keeping on trying."

So were the Babylonian exiles determined to rebuild the Temple. Their enemies, inhabitants who had remained in the land, were determined to be an obstacle to prevent completion of the task. They came and offered their services in rebuilding the Temple, but the exiles refused their offer because they understood their motives. Consequently, the enemies of the Jews hired people who frustrated the workers and attempted to stop the building. This continued into the reign of Cyrus and even to Darius.

A complaint concerning the builders was lodged with Xerxes. Evidently little attention was given to the complaint. Later, a letter was sent to Artaxerxes, Xerxes' successor, asking him to halt the work on the Temple. The enemies succeeded, for Artaxerxes ordered the work of the Temple to cease. Upon receipt of the order, the work came to a standstill until

the second year of the reign of Darius, when the exiles started once more to rebuild the Temple.

Again, the enemies of the Jews sent a letter to Darius asking him to permanently stop the work. However, Darius replied in favor of the exiles, and work on the Temple resumed. Darius not only allowed the work to begin, but also he added great displeasure to the enemies of the exiles. Darius commanded them to support the rebuilding, to provide supplies and materials. He also pronounced stern measures of punishment for those who did not cooperate with the Babylonian exiles in rebuilding the Temple. With the blessings of God upon the builders and workers, the building progressed, and the work was completed. Upon completion, the Temple was dedicated; and worship was restored, just as in the days of Moses.

Several factors helped the exiles to overcome the king's command to stop work on the Temple. Similar circumstances cause people of today to yield to discouragement rather than to be spurred on by determination. The Temple builders refused to be discouraged.

There is a fable that once the devil placed his tools on exhibition. Chief among them were malice, hatred, envy, jealousy, vanity, deceit, lying, and by itself lay a wedge-shaped instrument called discouragement. "Discourage-

ment," said the devil, "is the most useful instrument in all my collection of tools. It is worth more than all the others put together." The devil still owns that tool and uses it daily.

The exiles were stopped in their efforts of rebuilding, but they patiently waited upon the Lord to assist them. Patience and determination, coupled with prayer with fellow believers, can help in overcoming any obstacle. The prophets were constantly among the people urging them to have faith in God's purpose and will to be done. It has been said, "Pray and stay are two blessed monosyllables." Shakespeare said, "How poor are they that have not patience! What wound did ever heal but by degrees?" Throughout my life I have always been helped by the couplet, "It matters not which way the wind does blow. But the set of the sail determines which way the ship will go."

You may be faced with obstacles in your life. The exiles continued working, even though they had opposition. They only ceased from their work on direct orders of the king. However, when the word arrived to proceed with the building, the Jews were ready to complete the task. Have faith in God, be patient, and be determined to fulfill his purpose in your life.

Allen of Jackson, is the wife of Judd Allen, pastor of Ogden Church, Bentonla.

## Living as God's children are intended to live

By Benny Still  
Ephesians 5:1-20

Paul must have really been having some problems with the church at Ephesus. Chapters 4 and 5 sound a lot like the "10 Commandments" of the New Testament. Last week we talked about Christians being children of the Light (Jesus). We certainly are not the light, but we can be reflectors of the Light (Jesus) who has come to dwell in us.



Still

In verses 1-2 Paul talks about living in love. If we would be examples of God's love, then we must learn to imitate God in our lifestyles.

As Christ was offered up as a sacrifice for our sins, we should be willing to go above and beyond what is expected of us as God's children. That trait of love should be shown in the way we live and in the way we invest ourselves in the lives of others.

Verse 3-6 exhort us to live lives that are pure. Today immoral indulgences are often accepted as being natural, healthy, and not involving Christian sexual principles. Paul reminds his readers that such behavior is repugnant to God and subject to his wrath. Have you ever

## LIFE AND WORK

wondered, "How could what I'm doing be anything other than God's will for me, 'cause it seem so right to me?" Such thinking can blur the vision of our conscience and render us useless in God's work as we allow ourselves to be hardened to the truth of God's word. One version says, "Avoid all appearance of evil." The NIV says, "... there must not be even a hint of sexual immorality, or of any kind of impurity, or of greed — BECAUSE, these are improper for God's holy people" (v. 3). That gives credence to the philosophy of the book *In His Steps*, which advocates the Christian asking this question before doing anything: "What would Jesus do in this circumstance?" If we all took that philosophy to heart and practiced it in our daily living, we wouldn't have to worry about getting caught in a compromising situation — we'd simply do the right thing!

As Christians, we are to walk in the light and produce all that is good, right, and true. Unless we grow in our faith, we will remain as we were at the time of our salvation — spiritually immature. There should be a desire present in your heart to learn as much as you can about God's Word and how it can be used in daily living. If our Christianity cannot be translated into

our daily life experiences, then it isn't worth much, is it? We need to learn and then to live in all that is pleasing to God. The light of righteous living will expose all that is evil (vv. 8-14).

In verses 15-20, Paul talks to us about living in wisdom as children of God. Christians are to live in wisdom (v. 15) as they make the most of their time by using every opportunity to serve God (v. 16). We miss so many opportunities for service due to misplaced priorities. Somehow, we think we are to do God-honoring things only when we meet to worship on Sundays or Wednesdays. Slothful servants are less productive than they need to be. Successful servants are those who busy themselves seeking opportunities for service and then exercise their faith by accomplishing what they set out to do! That in itself involves our discernment of the will of God in our lives and the motivation to see it through (v. 17).

As we allow the Holy Spirit room in our lives to the point that we are controlled by him and impelled by him, there is undeniable and irrefutable joyfulness and thanksgiving in our private and public experiences (vv. 18-20). Many folks get caught up on verse 18 about being filled with the Spirit of God instead of being filled with the "spirits of alcoholic drink." That is a proper assessment of the verse, but

can we take it a step further and apply that to anything done to excess? Paul told the Corinthians that they were the temple of God — that the Spirit of God lived in them (1 Cor. 3:16). My Sunday School teacher always stressed to me that anything we put into our bodies that has potential for harm is taboo. That even applies to food — if our consumption is gluttonous. Back to the question, "What would Jesus do?" If we ask that question in every aspect of our living, we will be better able to resist the temptation of the devil "that so easily besets us" (Hebrews 12:1).

Paul echoes the writer of Proverbs 17:22 in verse 19 of this week's lesson. The Proverbs' verse says, "A merry heart doeth good like a medicine," and here Paul says we should "sing and make music in our hearts to the Lord." What a better life we'd all enjoy if we would do that one thing! When we allow the Holy Spirit to indwell every part of our living, we will be able to resist temptations to sin, and thereby remove the occasion for guilt to control us. Jesus said, "I have come that they might have life, and have it more abundantly" (John 10:10). If we follow the mandates of Paul as recorded in today's lesson, we'll be mighty close to "living as God's children" were intended to live!

Still is pastor, Poplar Springs Church, Mendenhall.

## David's return to power — our God of the "Second Chance"

By Jerry Vardaman  
2 Sam. 19:11-20:26

Our passage today deals with the God of a second chance. David is invited back again to serve as king by all of the tribes of Israel, including Judah, the tribe from which he originated.



Vardaman

As a matter of fact, the people of Judah were slow to reinstate David to come back and reign again. We are not sure why. Perhaps it was because they feared that since the rebellion of Absalom had started in Hebron (a major city of Judah), David would be especially wrathful towards them. In any event, David was ready to forgive and to carry on with the major tasks at hand: to reorganize the government (2 Sam. 20:23-26) to prevent the same thing which happened under Absalom from happening again (20:6-22). This time when a person named Sheba tried to lead a revolt of the 10 northern tribes in a breakaway movement from Judah and Benjamin, David was decisively, and instantly, on top of the matter and refused to let that take place. By acting promptly, David was thus able to stay in charge of his country until he died some years later.

Our concentration in this lesson will be on the God of a second chance. What if today you were

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put out of your job? What if your marriage would end in divorce? What if you became mentally unbalanced, or what if you lost all of your money or property? What if you had to stay that way for a long while and then, almost miraculously, all that you lost was recovered? While this is not exactly the same situation David was in, it is good enough for comparative purposes. All that David possessed went down the tubes when Absalom drove him from Jerusalem. David had to start over. Note some of the new directions he took as a result of the opportunity given him to gain power again and to serve the Lord in a new way.

1) The people came to Gilgal to meet him — David's religious renewal (19:15). Gilgal was the first place that the ark had been erected when the people had crossed the Jordan under Joshua, and there the ark had been erected in the Tabernacle. Here the priests again were sought by David, along with their help (2 Sam. 19:11), and once again David was reconciled with his people. It is significant that David established contact with the religious leaders in the new directions he now took, and when his relationship with God was renewed and his service with God was in order, he was once again

vitalized to serve the entire nation.

2) David was greater in spirit — ready to forgive and put aside petty quarrels and squabbles (19:16-23). Shimei was the person who cursed David when he was driven out of Jerusalem by Absalom. He hurried down to the Jordan to meet David when he heard that David was on the way back. He was afraid of losing his life if he did not have David's forgiveness. Actually David was ready and eager to forgive. He also learned Mephibosheth (Meribaal), the crippled son of Jonathan, when he forgave more of the circumstances of Mephibosheth's not going with him into exile (19:24-30).

Jesus said that if God has forgiven us, we should be ready to forgive others. David had learned a bitter lesson. He had desperately wanted to forgive Absalom and start over. Nevertheless, he started with those he could, and did not wish to have a second revolt break out as had broken out under Absalom.

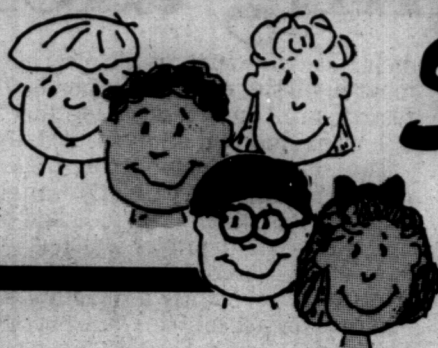
3) David determined that those things which had led to his exile the first time would not be repeated (20:6-22). He would not be careless with any responsibility any longer. An old proverb says, "A stitch in time saves nine." He would not let Joab constantly interfere with his decisions. Lincoln once said, "Lord, I can handle my enemies, but deliver me from my friends." In a Psalm attributed to David (41:9), we read, "Even my bosom friend in whom I trusted, who ate of my bread, has lifted his heel

against me." David could have been thinking of Joab or others like him. On the other hand, several of David's friends like Barzillai (his name means man of iron) had shown that they could be counted on (19:31-40) in every circumstance, and David strengthened his friendship with these old and tried friends. Should Barzillai's help ever be needed again, it would be available for David to utilize.

Our God is the God of a second chance. His help might not come to us in the same way that it came to David. We might not need the slaves nor do we worship God in the form of the Ark of the Covenant which David used. Our God is the God who does not have to remain in Jerusalem (15-29), but goes with us across the Jordan, through the Jordan, and wherever his people are to be found, to supply our every need. He gave Paul a second chance. He gave Moses a second chance. He gave Simon Peter a second chance. He gave David a second chance. He wants to give any who need it a second chance. He gave John Mark a second chance, and is ready to work the same grace in the life of any who will rely fully on him. Actually, when we consider all of David's life, we note that he gave chance after chance — in loving grace — to this ancient servant of his, and as Paul said, "He who spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him freely give us all things" (Rom. 8:32).

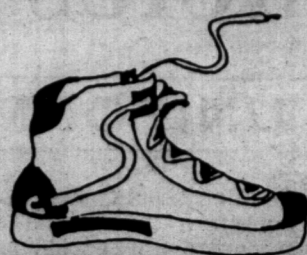
Vardaman is professor of archaeology, MSU.





# Shoe Strings

'the kids' fun page'



Created by  
Rob Sauls  
Darrell Vandergriff  
Lib McCluskey

## Use your Bible to match the Father(s) and son(s)

- |            |                |
|------------|----------------|
| 1. Abraham | Moses          |
| 2. Zebedee | Jesus          |
| 3. Saul    | Jacob and Esau |
| 4. Amram   | Joseph         |
| 5. Isaac   | Solomon        |
| 6. God     | James and John |
| 7. Jacob   | Jonathan       |
| 8. David   | Isaac          |



- ANSWERS
- |                            |
|----------------------------|
| 1. Abraham, Isaac          |
| 2. Zebedee, James and John |
| 3. Saul, Jonathan          |
| 4. Amram, Moses            |
| 5. Isaac, Jacob and Esau   |
| 6. God, Jesus              |
| 7. Jacob, Joseph           |
| 8. David, Solomon          |

## Brian goes fishin'

"It's time to get up," said Gramps. The fish are bitin'." Brian growled, rolled over, and found his Nikes. "Fishing! Where's the sun?" Gramps smiled and said, "It'll be up before we get to the lake."

As Brian's dad backed the mini-van out of the garage, Brian grabbed a pop tart. The drive to the lake was over in 35 minutes. When the mini-van stopped, Brian woke up. He stretched, yawned, and opened the tail gate to help the other "men" with the fishin' gear.

The sun peeped over the tree tops (just as Gramps said it would). Gramps climbed into the front, Brian sat in the middle, and Brian's dad pushed the old green boat into the water, just getting his toes wet.

After baiting their hooks the guys made three perfect casts (well Brian's worm fell off and he had to find a new worm.). Five then ten minutes went past, and nothing happened. Brian was getting bored when Gramps said, "I have a big one!" Brian helped Gramps land his big one (it was only four inches long... some big one!). Then a shout came from the back of the boat, "I have a bite," said Brian's dad. But, it got away. With all the excitement of helping Dad, Brian didn't notice his pole bending toward the water. Gramps and dad both said at the same time, "Brian you've got a bite." Gramps said, "It looks like a whale!"

The "whale" worked Brian for five minutes. Back and forth, inch by inch Brian brought the catch close enough for Gramps to use the net. Smiling and almost jumping out of the boat, Brian said, "It's not a whale, but it's minel Pass me another worm!"

## Happy Father's Day

### A Gift for Father's Day

Clip these coupons and give to your dad or step-dad. When he gives it back do the job cheerfully.

Give me a hug!  
Good for many hugs.

Yard work.  
Good for pulling weeds,  
raking, and other things.

Trash is trash.  
Take out all the trash!

The car is dirty.  
Help wash the car.

Your clothes and toys  
are not put away.  
Clean up your room!

## capsules

**BILLY GRAHAM WARMS HEARTS IN COLD WEATHER:** MINNEAPOLIS, Minn. — Evangelist Billy Graham, midway through his ten-day crusade held in three cities in Scotland, preached in some of the coldest weather in which he has ever held meetings and focused the crowd's attention on the universal fact of human sinfulness and people's hunger for God. He warned that neither communism, nor capitalism, nor a free market economy will win the world. He said that the world is desperately trying to find a leader who can lead us out of the darkness. Graham said that answer is only found in Christ. Graham concluded Mission Scotland 1991 with meetings in Glasgow, June 4-8.

**SBC CONFERENCE FOR BLIND:** NASHVILLE (BP) — The Southern Baptist Conference for the Blind will hold its second annual meeting June 21-23 in Nashville and is expected to hear a proposal seeking program recognition from the Home Mission Board. Although no official figures are available, there are probably 300 to 400 blind people in Southern Baptist churches, according to Charles Couey, president of the conference organized in New Orleans last year. Couey said he hopes 50 to 100 will attend the Nashville annual meeting. Saturday and Sunday sessions will be held at Park Avenue Church in Nashville. There is no registration fee but Couey said he needs to know who is coming in order to provide transportation to/from motels, the SSB building, etc. For more information or to register, call Couey at (615) 741-4991 (office) or (615) 331-6098 (home) or send mailed messages in Braille, print, or tape to 103 Brenda Lane, Antioch, Tenn., 37013.

**WMU EXECUTIVE BOARD ACTS ON BUDGET, PUBLICATIONS:** ATLANTA (BP) — The executive board of the Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union announced June 1 the redesign of its adult member magazine, approved a record budget, and voted to produce jointly with the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission a quarterly kit for youth workers to use in coed youth groups. Research conducted during the last three years led the Royal Service staff to change the member magazine to be more "reader friendly" by including more Bible study helps, more spiritual development resources, more journalistic stories, shorter articles, less textbook style, reader poetry and recipes, mission cartoons, trend information, and more photographs. The leader edition will be identical to the member edition but will include a 16-page leadership section. The board adopted a budget of \$13,413,380 for 1991-1992. The new budget reflects a 6.6 percent increase over the current budget of \$12.5 million. The board voted to reduce the 1991 Lottie Moon offering goal from \$88 million to \$84 million due to concerns about a shortfall in 1990 foreign missions giving. The 1993 Annie Armstrong national goal will be \$41 million. The goal has been set at \$41 million since 1990.

## Dunn lashes at plan to launder school funds through parents

WASHINGTON (ABP) — Laundering public funds by passing them through parents' hands to parochial schools does not eliminate the problems of using public funds for non-public purposes, James M. Dunn told a group of education, religious, and civil-liberties representatives here May 22.

Dunn, executive director of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, described a Bush administration proposal — to encourage states and local school districts to provide vouchers to send children to private and parochial schools — as a "back-door" method of funding such schools.

"It is a well-established principle of law that one cannot do through the back door what could not be done through the front," Dunn said.

The so-called "choice" segment of the administration's education reform package would authorize \$200 million in federal grants in fiscal 1992 and "such sums as may be necessary" during the next four fiscal years for local school districts that allow parents to select the school, including private schools, their children attend.

The measure also would authorize \$30 million in fiscal 1992 and "such sums as may be needed" during the next four years for state and local school districts to conduct "choice" demonstration projects. Under the measure, Chapter 1 remedial-education services or funds would follow students participating in a "choice" program.

"Funny mental tricks are needed to

justify taking public money for non-public purposes," Dunn said. "Defending voucher plans as indirect aid to religious institutions rather than direct support for sectarian schools is a distinction without a difference."

Dunn spoke to the National Coalition for Public Education, an umbrella organization of U.S. education, religious, and civil-liberties groups.

He said educational vouchers are "a blatant attempt" to fund religious institutions through a governmental "back door."

Dunn cited former Supreme Court Justice William O. Douglas' opinion in the case of Abington v. Schempp, which states, "It is the use to which public funds are put and not to whom they are provided that is controlling. . . . What may not be done directly may not be done indirectly lest the Establishment Clause become a mockery."

Church-related schools "hardly have a reason to exist without providing religious instruction and indoctrination," Dunn said, adding that "no fast book work by accountants, no shifting the government money from one pocket to another to maintain the fiction that no taxes teach religion, will keep the ethical slate clean for a church school indirectly receiving federal funds."

Dunn also pointed to Supreme Court rulings that even indirect financial aid results in federal regulations.

"How in the world, then, when vouchers promise a morass of governmental regulations that many 'choice'

supporters oppose, can any reasonably well-informed church leader indirectly invite 'regs' and guidelines? Why would anyone who pays even token tribute to separation of church and state welcome this false advertising in educational reform? 'Choice' indeed! It's more a matter of chance."

Baptist Record

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